Canadian Heritage
Parks Canada

Patrimoine canadien
Parcs Canada

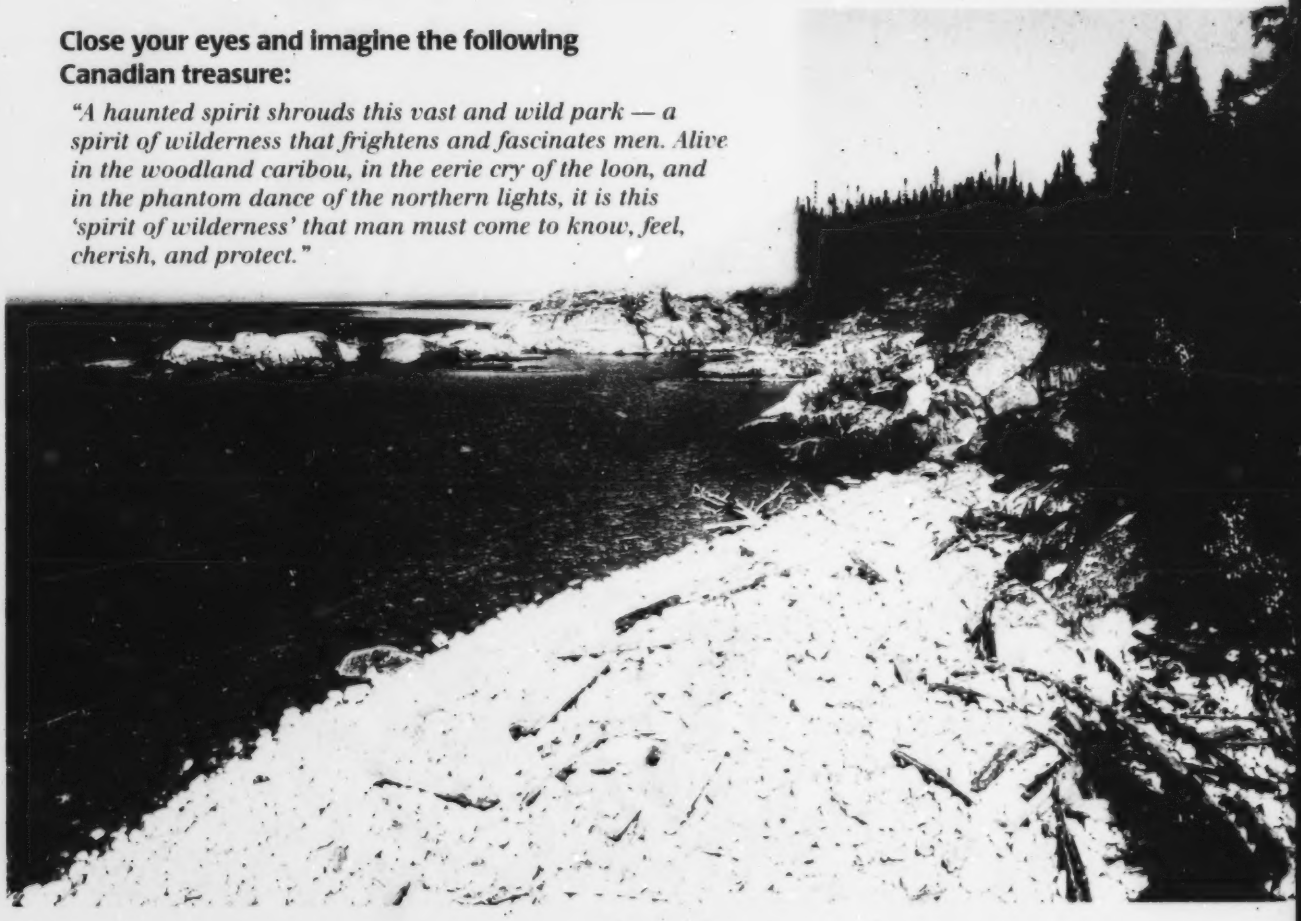
PUKASKWA

NATIONAL PARK

MANAGEMENT PLAN SUMMARY

Close your eyes and imagine the following Canadian treasure:

"A haunted spirit shrouds this vast and wild park — a spirit of wilderness that frightens and fascinates men. Alive in the woodland caribou, in the eerie cry of the loon, and in the phantom dance of the northern lights, it is this 'spirit of wilderness' that man must come to know, feel, cherish, and protect."



Canada

This is Pukaskwa National Park, situated where the Canadian Shield meets Lake Superior, the largest fresh-water lake by area in the world. The Park is a large, wild, rocky place, with a strong and continuing Aboriginal presence.

The Park, founded in 1978, plays an important role in protecting national and cultural resources within the Lake Superior basin. As one of 36 national parks administered by Parks Canada and the Department of Canadian Heritage, its purpose is to protect, for all time, a representative example of the Central Boreal Uplands and the Great Lakes Shoreline and to encourage public understanding, appreciation and enjoyment of its heritage so as to leave it unimpaired for this and future generations.

The Park Management Plan

This document provides a summary of the new 1996 management plan for Pukaskwa National Park. A management plan is a carefully thought out document, prepared in consultation with the public, that describes what the park should be like in the future, and describes, in broad terms, how to achieve that desired state, or "vision". A management plan must always recognize that, as required by the National Parks Act, our first priority is to ensure ecological integrity, which is the health and wholeness of the park's ecosystems. Although a park management plan is written for a 10 to 15 years time frame, it is reviewed every five years to make certain that it is still up to date, and that ecological integrity is being maintained.

The new management plan sets a long term sustainable course for the Park within the Boreal forest and Lake Superior Basin. Our ability to achieve a sustainable future for the Park will be done co-operatively with the Lake Superior basin community. Dollars are limited and Pukaskwa's future is based on a healthy Lake Superior basin. How much we can achieve depends on our collective creativity - finding new ways to do things and on our ability to work together as a community.

102-04736/

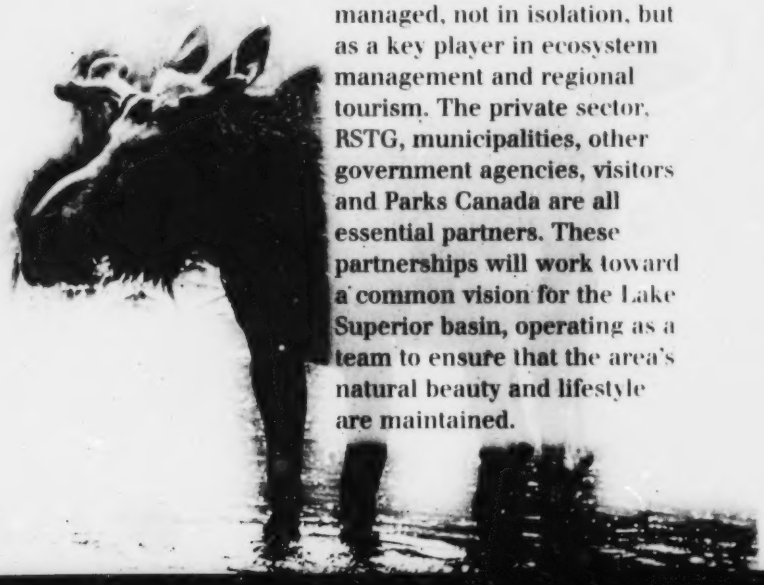
Our Mission: Working Together

Our mission is to protect and present the natural and cultural resources of Pukaskwa National Park. This will be done in a manner that ensures and respects the Park's continuing status as an area of national heritage value within the Lake Superior basin. By working closely with the residents of and visitors to the Lake Superior basin and our partners in the Lake Superior basin to achieve this mission, the well-being of the area's rich natural and cultural values will be preserved for future generations. The Robinson-Superior Treaty Group (RSTG) will play a significant role in helping to achieve this mission since the park is located within that portion of Ontario subject to the Robinson-Superior Treaty of 1850.

Our Vision for the Future

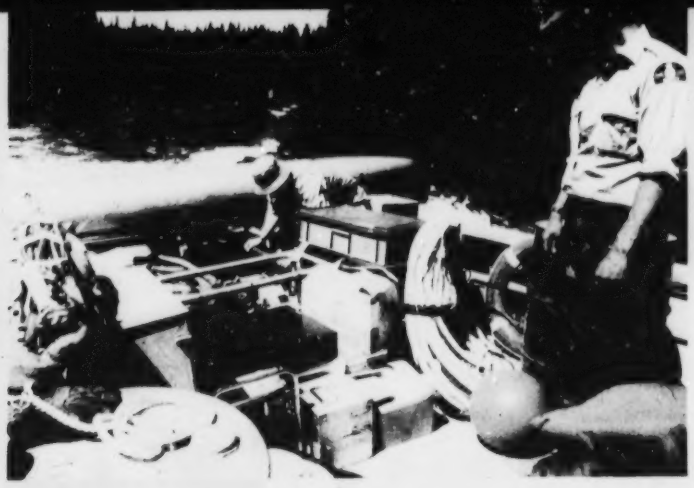
By the year 2007, Pukaskwa National Park will be a stronger core protected wilderness area. It will protect a sample of the area's special heritage values and be linked to a network of other natural areas within the Boreal forest and Lake Superior basin.

Through increased public- and private-sector partnerships, co-operative activities, and involvement in regional planning and ecosystem management programs, the Park will be managed, not in isolation, but as a key player in ecosystem management and regional tourism. The private sector, RSTG, municipalities, other government agencies, visitors and Parks Canada are all essential partners. These partnerships will work toward a common vision for the Lake Superior basin, operating as a team to ensure that the area's natural beauty and lifestyle are maintained.



Pukaskwa Predator-prey Process Project (P5)

Pukaskwa National Park continues to sponsor and conduct research on wolf, moose and caribou in the Greater Pukaskwa Area. As of February, 1996, there were 5 wolves, 34 moose and 5 caribou being monitored with radio collars. These collars allow researchers to monitor animal movements in order to determine there preferred habitat and home ranges. With this information, the park will be better able to determine the effects of changes in land use, wildlife man agement and natural processes on the predator prey interactions.

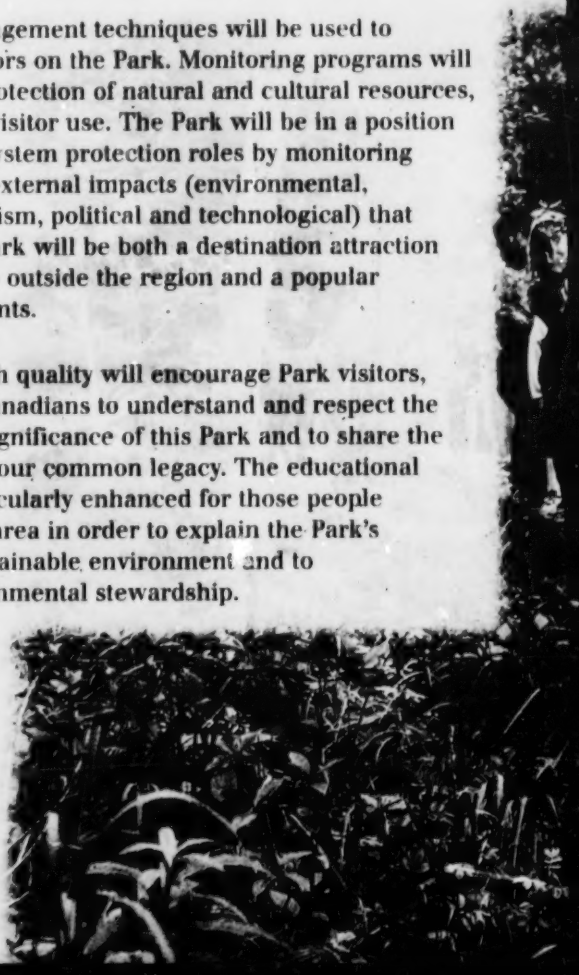


The Park environment will be managed using accurate scientific information. Systematic research and monitoring programs will be in place to support ecosystem protection and management objectives. The ecosystem will be managed on an integrated basis, rather than focusing on individual species or features alone. A program using sound co-operative research efforts will be established that continues to update the comprehensive resource information bank on which ecosystem protection is based.

The Park will continue to provide visitors with opportunities for special wilderness experiences of high quality within the Lake Superior basin. However, not all public needs or expectations can or will be met. Park programs, facilities, and services will be directed towards the following target groups: back-country users, day-users, campers, and organized educational groups.

Visitors and ecosystem management techniques will be used to minimize the impact of visitors on the Park. Monitoring programs will be in place to ensure that protection of natural and cultural resources, while allowing appropriate visitor use. The Park will be in a position to fulfil its tourism and ecosystem protection roles by monitoring trends and anticipating the external impacts (environmental, economic, recreational, tourism, political and technological) that could affect the Park. The Park will be both a destination attraction for campers and hikers from outside the region and a popular day-use area for local residents.

Learning experiences of high quality will encourage Park visitors, regional residents and all Canadians to understand and respect the national and international significance of this Park and to share the responsibility for protecting our common legacy. The educational role of the park will be particularly enhanced for those people living within the Pukaskwa area in order to explain the Park's role in contributing to a sustainable environment and to encourage a sense of environmental stewardship.



Achieving the Vision: A Strategy for Action

Fire In The Boreal Forest

It is well understood by researchers that the boreal forest depends on fire to ensure its health. Pukaskwa, being a boreal forest park, is very concerned about fire and its role on the landscape. A fire ecology program has been initiated at Pukaskwa in order to one day, re-introduce fire on more of a controlled basis. With this work we can allow the park to remain healthy while protecting our neighbouring communities.

Throughout the Plan, the need for working with others is emphasized. It is critical to our environment, our economy, and our well-being. Parks Canada does not have the dollars or resources to be all things to all people.

The direction of and initiatives in the Plan tie into the following areas in which Parks Canada wants to place more effort in the future: managing the ecosystem and the cultural resources, promoting an understanding of Canadian heritage, and promoting sustainable tourism and being a model of environmental stewardship. We will achieve these results while doing business more effectively and efficiently.

Parks Canada is exploring opportunities and establishing targets for revenue generation and shared management. Revenue generation will maximize revenue, helping to defray costs while respecting Parks Canada's values over the long term. We need to bring the costs associated with providing a service closer to the revenue. In some cases this will mean increasing user fees, looking at alternative ways of providing this service or discontinuing the service. Shared management will involve partners outside the parks system in the management, operation, and protection of Canada's natural and cultural resources. We will carry out our protection and commemoration responsibilities with a focus beyond our boundaries.

The Plan describes the future for Pukaskwa with more focus on protection and influencing others within the Lake Superior basin. The initiatives in the Plan portray a future for the Park that:

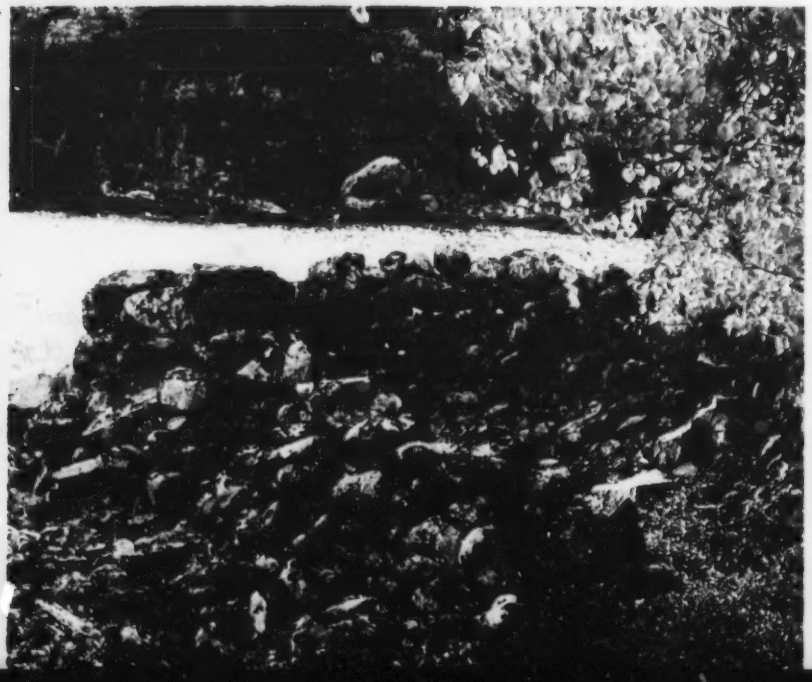
- establishes Pukaskwa as a benchmark of ecological health and integrity for the Lake Superior basin,
- links Parks activities with others,
- shifts the emphasis from focusing on Park property to influencing others in creating a sustainable future in and around the Park through an ecosystem management framework,
- continues to strengthen the relationship with First Nations towards a common vision for the Park; and
- focuses our educational program with partners on encouraging people to take responsibility for the long-term protection of this special part of Canada.

Zoning

Parks Canada has the responsibility to protect Pukaskwa National Park for all time. Careful land use management is therefore required to ensure that the ecological integrity of the Park is maintained, while allowing appropriate and sustainable visitor use. Through zoning, the lands and water of the Park are classified as to the level of protection they need, and the levels and types of use that can be sustained.

The zoning system used by Parks Canada has five zones, all are represented within Pukaskwa National Park. However, over 95% of the park area is zoned "wilderness". This reflects the overall size of the park (1,878km2) and its ability to support a suite of species requiring extensive habitat and provide a "wilderness" experience for park visitors.

There is a series of special preservation areas (zone 1) located along the Lake Superior shoreline of the Park. This zone provides the highest level of protection, and contains features or species which are unique, rare or the best example of their kind in the Park. The special preservation areas in Pukaskwa contain woodland caribou, arctic - alpine flora, a jack pine forest, acid-sensitive lakes and Pukaskwa Pit structures, remnants of Aboriginal use.



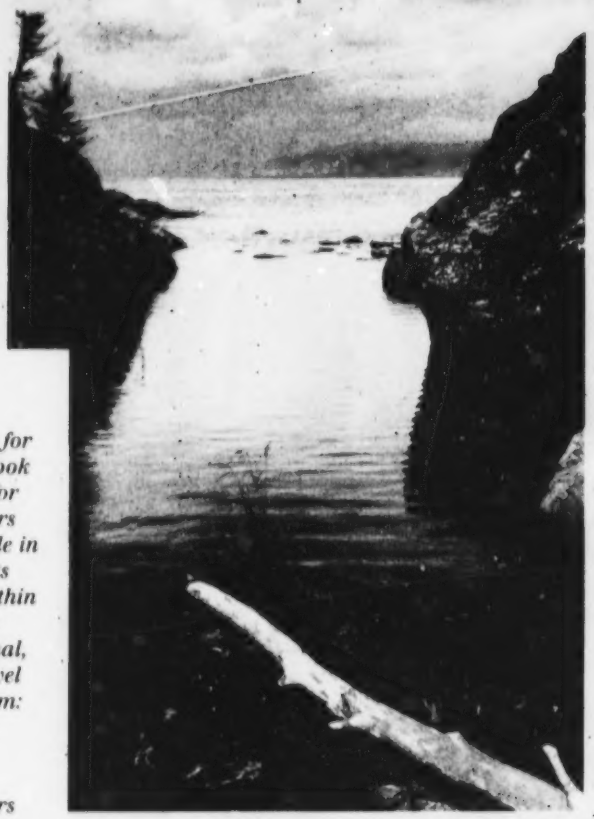
A little more detail please!

The previous sections described in broad terms Parks Canada's vision **and strategy for the park. Here are** some specific initiatives we are going to do with our partners.

- Continuation of a major wildlife study examining the dynamics of wolf, moose and woodland caribou in the region which will provide vital information to the park management.
- Recognizing the ecological role that fire plays in the boreal mixed-wood ecosystem, a comprehensive, integrated and pro-active fire management program will be implemented by 2000.
- A regional landscape study will examine how forest fires compare to forest harvesting in terms of ecological integrity within the park and the areas surrounding the park
- The distribution of Woodland Caribou, has shifted north, leaving small remnant populations along the north shore of Lake Superior. Pukaskwa contains one of these coastal populations who are important from a standpoint of biological diversity. Through Park zoning, research development of visitor access and ecological management strategies Caribou populations will, hopefully, be maintained.
- Land uses in the region surrounding the Park has altered the natural environment and is fragmenting the park from its regional landscape. Parks Canada will continue to support and participate in regional land use decision forums such as the White River Co-management Committee and the White River Forest Management Plan to ensure a sustainable future for the greater park ecosystem.
- A joint wildlife management strategy for renewable resource harvesting will be developed in conjunction with representatives of the Robinson - Superior Treaty Group, in order to meet our commitment to allow native harvesting and traditional use activities within the park.
- A comprehensive ecosystem conservation plan has been completed which details the priorities and actions required to ensure to the best of our ability, the integrity of park is maintained and where necessary, enhanced.
- An enhanced ecosystem monitoring program is being developed to track the parks ecological health and provide feedback from our management actions.

Ecological Indicators

As a means of ensuring the protection of Pukaskwa National Park, research is used to evaluate our performance. Much of this research involves monitoring to determine changes in various wildlife and plant species, and non-living components. Collectively known as ecological indicators, these may include Woodland Caribou, Beach Thistle or cross-boundary concerns such as water and air quality. Pukaskwa is currently selecting indicators which will best reflect the "health" of the park. Over time, monitoring the indicators will allow us to detect whether or not the ecosystem is threatened. If a threat is discovered, we will identify the source of the problem and take action to minimize its impact.



Communication As A Way To Protect

In order to protect Pukaskwa for future generations, we must look outside our own boundaries for cooperation. This allows others to understand Pukaskwa's role in the boreal forest and ensure its protection and the wildlife within it. Communication links have been established on the regional, national and international level to protect this valued ecosystem:

1) A regional communication newsletter is produced between area land managers (forest companies, provincial ministries, Town of Marathon) to share directions and ideas.

2) The park has "twinned" itself with Pictured Rocks National Lakeshore (Michigan) to encourage the protection of Lake Superior. This twinning involves display and interpreter exchanges.

3) Pukaskwa can reach people around the world with our homepage on the Internet. Ideally, we will foster a global understanding of, and support for, boreal forests and their important role in society.

PUKASKWA

For Further Information

If you would like a copy of the complete management plan or have other inquiries, please contact the park Superintendent at:

Superintendent
Pukaskwa National Park
Hwy. 627
Hattie Cove,
Heron Bay, Ontario
P0T 1R0

Tel: (807) 229-0801
FAX: (807) 229-2097
E-Mail:
ont_pukaskwa@pch.gc.ca

Canadian Heritage
Parks Canada

Patrimoine canadien
Parcs Canada

PUKASKWA NATIONAL PARK

MANAGEMENT PLAN

Canada

December 1995

FOREWORD

Pukaskwa National Park was created by the federal government in 1978, thereby setting aside for perpetuity a piece of the Canadian Shield on Lake Superior, the largest fresh-water lake in the world.

The Pukaskwa area has a rich and colourful story to tell - - one that began with native occupation around 5000 B.C. Today we have the opportunity to protect and present the living heritage of Pukaskwa by working with our neighbours to help ensure the long-term health of the Lake Superior basin. This is our challenge.

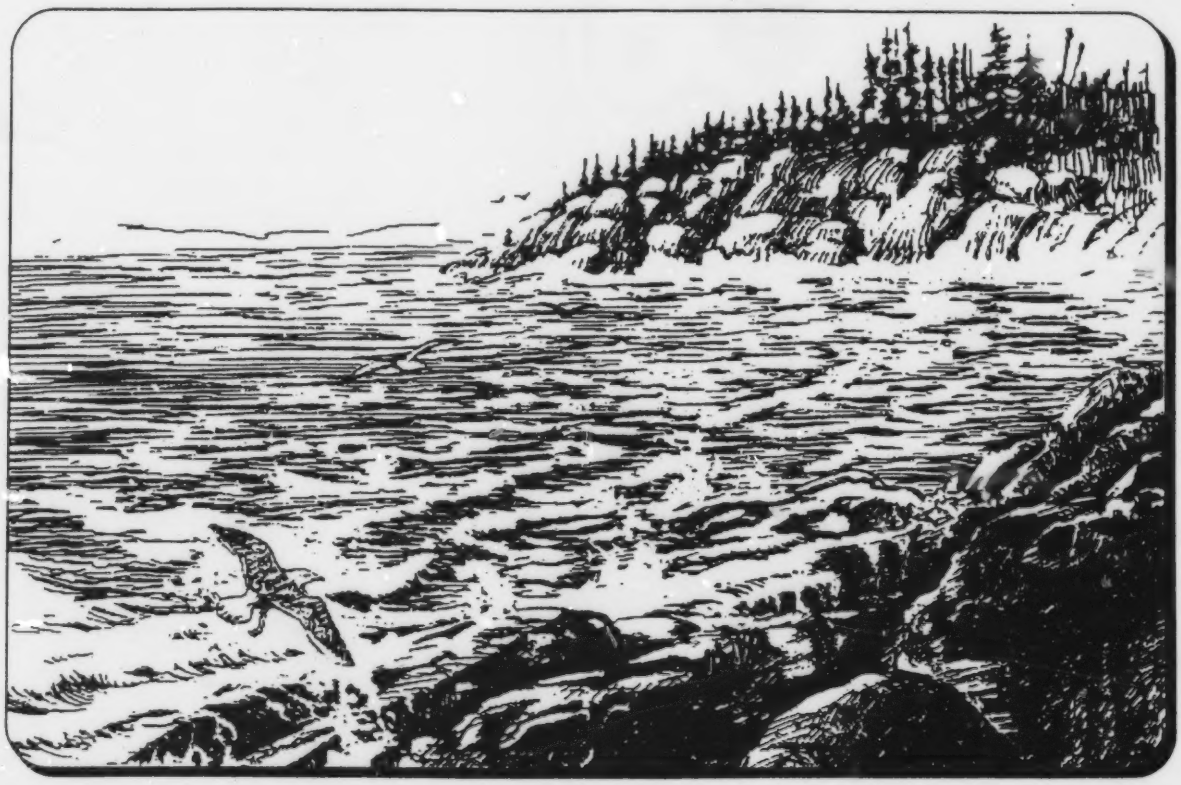
Our vision for Pukaskwa National Park is of a core protected wilderness area within the Lake Superior basin. But the Government of Canada cannot work alone. Maintaining a healthy and sustainable environment is everyone's responsibility. We need the help of all levels of government, private interests, local communities and the Canadian people. We hope that each and everyone of you shares our vision. We invite you to work with us.

And so we present the Management Plan for Pukaskwa National - - a plan to guide the actions of Parks Canada, a plan that identifies ways in which we can work individually and collectively to safeguard this special part of Canada for our children and grandchildren.

It gives me a great deal of pleasure to formally approve this Management Plan for Pukaskwa National Park.

Michel Dupuy
Minister of Canadian Heritage

RECOMMENDATION STATEMENT



This Management Plan is the statement of program policy for Pukaskwa National Park and is recommended for approval by:

Gilbert H. Scott
Regional Executive Director

T. Lee
Assistant Deputy Minister

R. Thomson
A/District Director

Mike Murphy
Superintendent
Pukaskwa National Park

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The Pukaskwa National Park Management Plan is the result of the combined efforts of many people - all committed to a sustainable future for the Lake Superior Region. These people include staff of government agencies, Lake Superior residents and the general public. Each individual contributed expertise, experience, comments, suggestions, advice and direction. It is this commitment, concern and dedication as stewards of the Lake Superior region which make the Pukaskwa National Park Management Plan a valuable and useful guide for our future. The Plan will provide direction for Park management over the next decade to ensure a healthy environment, protection of heritage resources and a prosperous economy.

The Management Planning Team wish to acknowledge, in particular, the following:

Lake Superior interest groups and the general public who reviewed and commented on the Plan.

Mike Murphy, who as the Superintendent provided strong leadership to the Planning Team throughout the Planning Process.

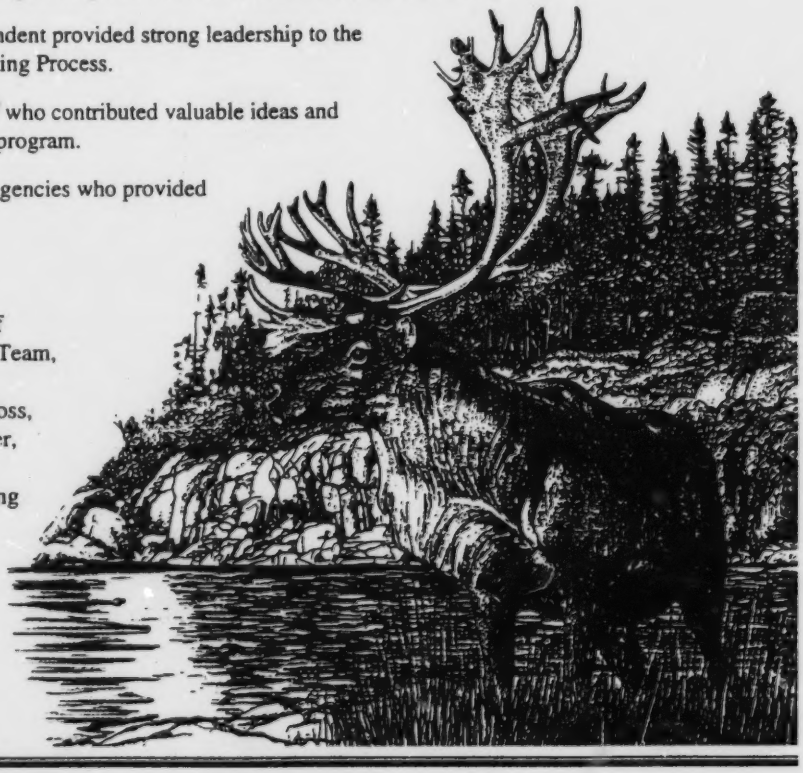
To the Pukaskwa National Park staff who contributed valuable ideas and insightful comments throughout the program.

The various Federal and Provincial agencies who provided input to the Planning Program.

A special thank you to all the members of the Parks Canada Management Planning Team,

Dan Couchie, Brian Hutchinson, Brian Ross, Donna Ryckman-Rooney, Johanne Ranger, Claude Tourangeau and Sharon Taillon, who were largely responsible for producing this guide to the next century for this special place of Canada.

Angus McLeod
Park Planner



For further information on the Pukaskwa National Park Management Plan, please contact:
Une version française de ce document est disponible sur demande à l'adresse suivante:

Superintendent,
Pukaskwa National Park
Highway 627, Hattie Cove .
Heron Bay, Ontario POT 1R0
(807) 229-0801

Directeur,
parc national de Pukaskwa
Route 627, Hattie Cove
Heron Bay (Ontario) POT 1R0
(807) 229-0801

TABLE OF CONTENTS

PAGE

Foreword i

Recommendation Statement iii

Acknowledgements v

1.0 Introduction

1.1 Background 1
1.2 Character of Pukaskwa National Park within the Lake Superior Basin 2
1.3 Planning History 4
1.4 Trends 4
1.5 Guiding Principles for Pukaskwa National Park Planning Program 5

2.0 Park Concept

2.1 Introduction. 6
2.2 Working Together: Our Mission.. 6
2.3 A Vision for the Future 6
2.4 Purpose of the Park in the National Park System.. 7
2.5 Objectives 8
2.6 Zoning Plan and Environmentally Sensitive Sites 9

3.0 The Natural Environment

3.1 Background 16
3.2 The Current Situation. 16
3.3 Our Vision for the Future 17
3.4 Initiatives 17
3.4.1 Ecosystem-Based Management 17
3.4.2 Ecosystem Boundaries 18
3.4.3 Ecosystem Evaluation and Function. 18
3.4.4 Ecosystem Monitoring 29
3.4.5 Impacts on the Ecosystem. 30

PAGE

4.0 The Cultural Environment

4.1 The Current Situation. 32
4.2 Our Vision for the Future 32
4.3 Initiatives 33

5.0 Visitor Activity Concept

5.1 Introduction 34
5.2 The Current Situation. 34
5.3 Our Vision for the Future 36
5.4 Target Groups and Stakeholders 37
5.5 Presentation Approach 38
5.6 Visitor Experiences Opportunities Areas 39
5.6.1 Front-Country Opportunity Area 39
5.6.2 Back-Country Opportunity Area 41
5.7 Public Involvement 45
5.8 Visitor Safety 45
5.8.1 Visitor Risk Management 45
5.8.2 Personal Safety 46
5.9 Support Facilities 46

6.0 Land Management

6.1 Introduction 47
6.2 Land Stewardship 47
6.3 Land-Use Planning and Regulatory Controls 47

7.0 Community Involvement

7.1 Introduction 48
7.2 Initiatives 50

8.0 Achieving the Vision: A Strategy for Action 51

PAGE

LIST OF MAPS

1. Regional Setting 1
2. Park Setting 2
3. Hattie Cove Frontcountry 3
4. Zoning Backcountry 12
5. Zoning Hattie Cove 13
6. Existing Facilities/Backcountry 35
7. Existing Facilities/Hattie Cove 36
8. Visitor Experience Opportunity Areas 40
9. Adjacent Land Use 49

LIST OF TABLES

1. Zoning System Summary 10

APPENDICES

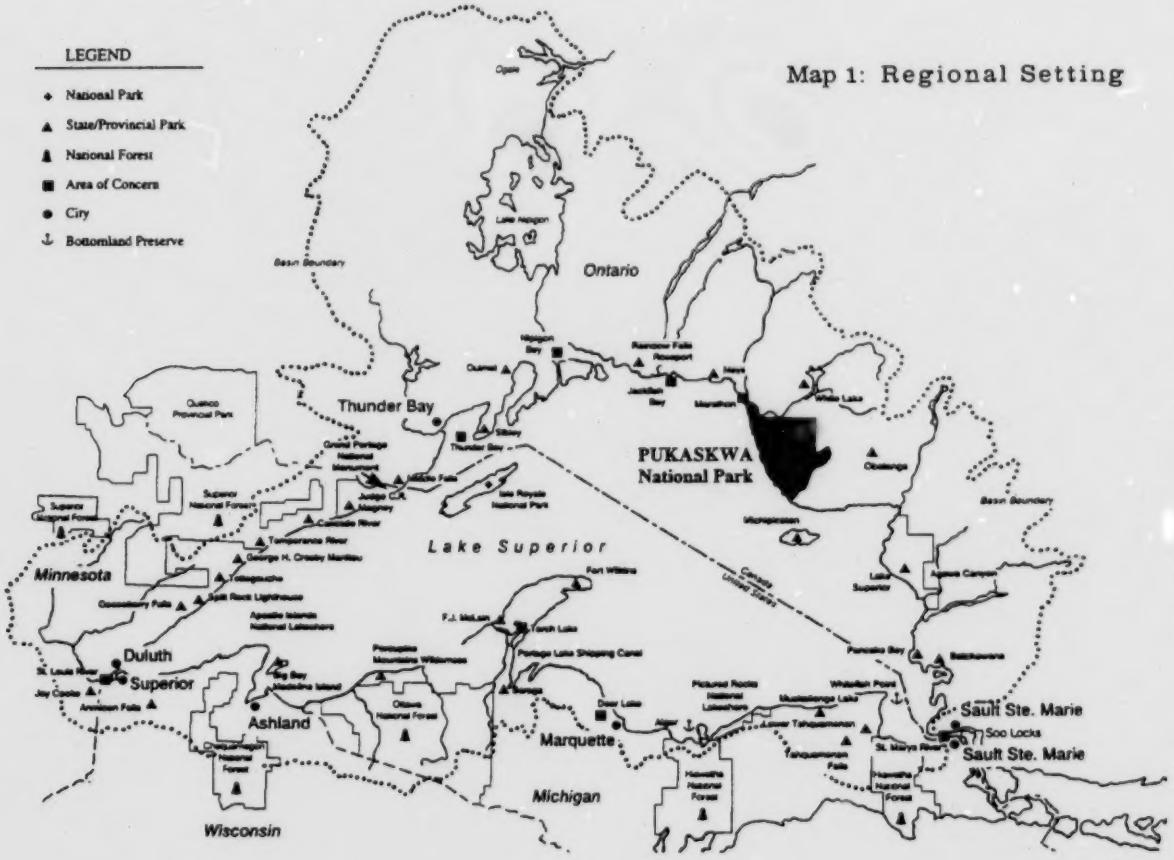
A. Important Trends Influencing Pukaskwa National Park 52
B. Guiding Principles for the Pukaskwa National Park Planning Program 53
C. Summary of the Environmental Screening Assessment 55
D. Public Consultation 57
E. Visitor Activities Conceptual Framework 58
F. User Fees 60

1.0 INTRODUCTION

"A haunted spirit shrouds this vast and wild park -- a spirit of wilderness that frightens and fascinates men. Alive in the woodland caribou, in the eerie cry of the loon, and in the phantom dance of the northern lights, it is this 'spirit of wilderness' that man must come to know, feel, cherish, and protect."

. . . written by a visitor to Pukaskwa National Park in the 1980s

Map 1: Regional Setting



1.1 Background

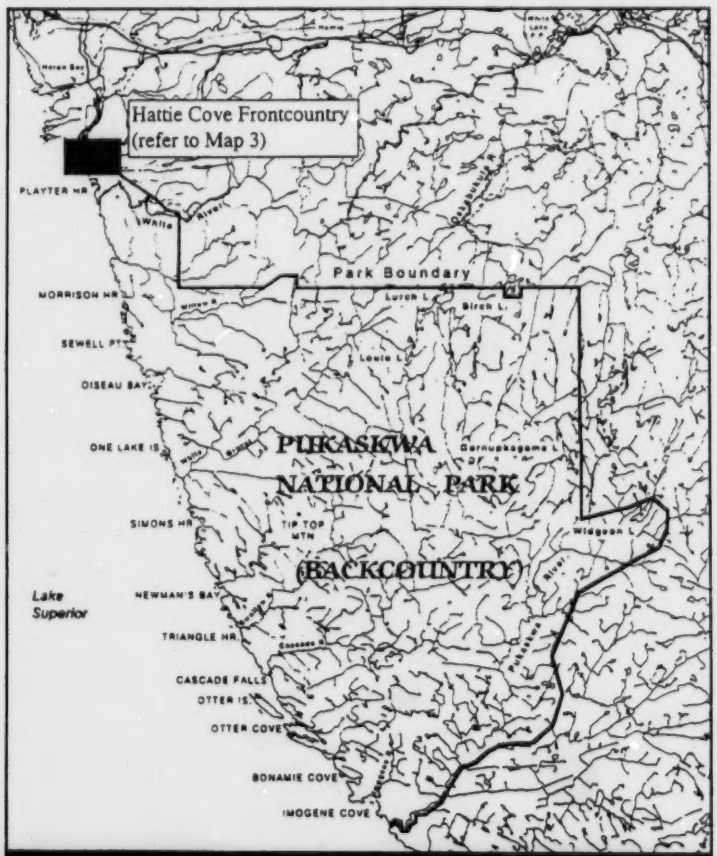
How do we ensure this "spirit of wilderness" is protected for future generations? One part of the solution is the creation of a strategic management plan with a 15-year life that includes the vision of a sustainable future for Pukaskwa National Park within the Lake Superior basin.

A Management Plan for Pukaskwa National Park was first approved by the Minister of the Environment in 1982. Since that time, a number of changes have taken place that alter the context within which the Park Management Plan must operate. These changes include the 1988

amendments to the National Parks Act, a revised Parks Canada policy, the Green Plan, significant resource extraction activities in the lands surrounding the Park, a new strategic direction that places emphasis on increasing Parks Canada's role with respect to protection and education, and a better understanding of both the Park's resources and its visitors based on new research. A formal Management Plan Review at five-year intervals is also required. Given these factors, plus the need to define more clearly a vision for Pukaskwa that includes its regional and Great Lakes setting, Parks Canada initiated a Management Plan Review, culminating in the production of this document.

Our ability to achieve a substainable future for the Park will be done co-operatively with the Lake Superior basin community. Dollars are limited and Pukaskwa's future is based on a healthy Lake Superior basin. How much we can achieve depends on our collective creativity - finding new ways to do things and on our ability to work together as a community.

1.2 Character of Pukaskwa National Park Within the Lake Superior Basin



Map 2: Park Setting

An understanding of the character of an area is essential if a management plan is to reflect an approach in harmony with the surrounding environment. Pukaskwa National Park is situated where the Canadian Shield meets Lake Superior, the largest fresh-water lake by area in the world. The Park is a large, wild, rocky place, where human beings are and forever will be only visitors. It seems eternally remote, inhospitable, and unyielding. Yet for all that, external forces could change its character.

The Park portrays a typical boreal forest dominated by Black Spruce, Jack Pine, and White Birch, where large animals such as the Moose, Wolf, Black Bear, and Woodland Caribou live virtually free from human activity. The Park is characterized by a heavily eroded mountain landscape scoured by continental glaciers, which left a drainage system of swift-flowing rivers shoreline is remote and rugged, with rocky headlands, sheltered coves, and sand and cobble beaches. The Park includes 128 km of the picturesque Lake Superior shoreline,

Tip Top Mountain (one of the highest points of land in Ontario), and the Pukaskwa Pits, with their remnants of pre-European culture. Aboriginal history within the Park closely resembles that of the entire northern Ontario region. In short, it is a history of isolation and hardship. Certain bands of these hunters and gatherers became the first truly resident population in northern Ontario from about 5000 to 500 B.C. This regionally specific cultural manifestation is called the Shield Archaic. In time, with the appearance of pottery-making, the Archaic gave way to the Initial Woodland period. The distinctive culture in the boreal forest to the north and west of the Great Lakes from about 500 B.C. to A.D. 900 is known as Laurel. It is believed that at least some of the famous Pukaskwa Pits may have been constructed by these people. Algonkian cultures — including both Blackduck (early Ojibway) and Selkirk (early Cree) — constitute the Terminal Woodland period (ca. A.D. 900-1650). More of the Pukaskwa Pits date from the Terminal Woodland period; a number of occupation sites from this time have also been discovered in the Park.

The Lake Superior area was opened to active trading in the late 17th century. The area of the Park was located along the historic trade routes to the rich fur-bearing areas of the northwest. In the early part of the 20th century, the Park area underwent a certain amount of timber harvesting, an activity still important northeast of the Park boundary. Major mining activity has developed north and south of the park since the early 1980s.

Changing land-use patterns around the Park have accelerated in recent years. Forestry, gold mining, and hydro companies are the Park's closest neighbours. This fact highlights the need for a co-ordinated approach in order to maintain and enhance the character, lifestyle, and environment of the area. Key government partners are the federal Department of the Environment and three provincial ministries: Natural Resources, Environment and Energy, and Northern Development and Mining.

The area was initially identified as a potential national park in the late 1960s. On July 13, 1971, a Memorandum of Intent to create Pukaskwa National Park was signed between Canada and the Province of Ontario. In February 1978, a land transfer agreement was signed between the Province and the Federal Government, creating Pukaskwa National Park. The Park is Ontario's largest national park and adds a special wilderness experience to the network of protected areas found in this part of Ontario. The Park is located within that portion of Ontario subject to the Robinson-Superior Treaty of 1850.

Map 3: Hattie Cove Frontcountry

The Park, a part of the Central Boreal Uplands, is located along the northeast shore of Lake Superior approximately 300 km east of Thunder Bay and 400 km northwest of Sault Ste. Marie. The nearest incorporated community, Marathon, is approximately 24 km northwest of the Park. Access to the Park is gained by Highway 627, which joins the Trans-Canada Highway (Hwy. 17) and the waters of

Lake Superior. The Park covers 1,878 km^2 and lies between the Pic River in the north and the Pukaskwa River in the south.

The Hattie Cove area, which represents less than 1% of the total Park area, is the major reception area. The Park offers many facilities for visitors at this site, including front-country camping, trails, a day-use area, a visitor centre, and interpretive displays. The remainder of the Park is defined as back country, with the limited facilities (trails, primitive campsites) appropriate to a wilderness experience.

1.3 Planning History

Planning for Pukaskwa National Park began in the early 1970s, culminating in the production of a provisional master plan in 1978. Following public review of this document, a draft Management Plan was developed for public comment. This process resulted in the production of an approved Management Plan in 1982.

While many of the recommendations of the 1982 Management Plan have been completed, Parks Canada has recognized the need to produce management plans with a longer time horizon, i.e., 15 years. This plan builds on the direction of the 1982 plan, which stressed the wilderness role of the Park. However, more emphasis is placed on the need to integrate the Park within the Lake Superior basin. This plan describes a strategy that will enable Parks Canada to take a broader, more active outreach role with its partners in order to maintain a sustainable future in this most special environment.

1.4 Trends

Management planning for national parks is a future-oriented activity. A management plan should provide long-term direction, as well as resolve immediate issues affecting a park and its resources. This will help Parks Canada managers to avoid future problems or, alternatively, provide guidance on how to resolve them when they arise. It is therefore important to examine trends that may influence the Park during the 15-year planning horizon on which this plan is based. Trends will be monitored and re-assessed in time for each five-year review of the Park Management Plan. Any significant changes will be reflected in the Plan Review Program.

Predicting and assessing trends accurately is far from an exact science. Many unpredictable factors, such as technological development and economic conditions, can influence future trends. Some projections may prove to have been unreliable. Nevertheless, understanding those factors that may influence the Park's future will permit Parks Canada to be prepared for upcoming opportunities and challenges. Trends analysis based on current conditions and projections, as well as on expert opinion, provides us with an impression of what the world could be like 15 years from now.

A few of the most significant trends influencing Pukaskwa National Park are highlighted in Appendix A.

Implications of Trends for Pukaskwa National Park

In order to achieve the Park's mandate to protect and present resources, the most current techniques of both ecosystem management and visitor management must be adopted. As well, a strong regional and lake-basin perspective in planning and the management of core protected areas must continue to develop in order to ensure ecological integrity.

Ecosystem Management: *Global and regional environmental pressures will complicate the task. For example, invasive non-native species, if permitted to establish themselves, will continue to simplify and homogenize the Park's ecosystems. (This may already have happened through the extinction or extirpation of some species.) Because of the interdependence of species and processes in a natural ecosystem, the loss of too many species, populations, or processes may lead to the loss of the Park's ecological integrity and representativeness.*

Visitor Management: *While located a significant distance from major markets, Pukaskwa is considered one of the most accessible pieces of wilderness left for the urban centres of southern Ontario and the mid-west of the U.S.A. The Park provides a special wilderness experience because of its large size, rugged and relatively unspoiled terrain, proximity to Lake Superior, and the facilities and services provided, which are compatible with the expectations of those users looking for a wilderness experience.*

The mix of demographic and economic trends point to a slight increase in visitors to attractions like Pukaskwa because of their wilderness character. The special environmentally based wilderness recreational opportunities available and the impact of certain trends also suggest that there is potential for increased demand for Pukaskwa within specific target markets. For example, with its outstanding natural scenery and opportunities to view wildlife, Pukaskwa is a candidate for growth in ecotourism. However, the wilderness nature of Pukaskwa will buffer the potential growth in visitor numbers, ensuring that irreparable damage to the ecological integrity of Park ecosystems is minimized.

Pukaskwa will continue to respond to those trends that are compatible with protecting and presenting the wilderness character of the Park.

Regional and Lake-Basin Perspective: *Given this combination of environmental and visitor trends, the protection of Pukaskwa as a healthy, functioning ecosystem cannot be ensured through passive means. Active resource management focusing on all aspects of ecosystem conservation is required. Parks Canada, through its presence in this national park, must participate with the people of the Lake Superior basin region in creating a common sustainable future.*

It is a major objective of this management plan to ensure standards and monitoring objectives will be in place to ensure the ecological integrity of the Park is unimpaired and the provision of visitor opportunities is sustainable Partnership arrangements with the private and public sector may be among the most important tools for achieving this objective.

1.5 Guiding Principles for the Pukaskwa National Park Planning Program

The development of this plan has been based on certain fundamental principles, which are presented in Appendix B. These principles are based in turn on Parks Canada's mandate, policy, and strategic direction, an evaluation of the current condition of the Park's resources, and the character of the Park and the Lake Superior area.

2.0 PARK CONCEPT

2.1 Introduction

The Park Concept sets the overall framework for the future management direction of Pukaskwa National Park.

2.2 Working Together: Our Mission

Our mission is to protect and present the natural and cultural resources of Pukaskwa National Park. This will be done in a manner that ensures and respects the Park's continuing status as an area of national heritage value within the Lake Superior basin. By working closely with the residents of and visitors to the Lake Superior basin and our partners in the Lake Superior basin to achieve this mission, the well-being of the area's rich natural and cultural values will be preserved for future generations. The Robinson-Superior Treaty Group (RSTG) will play a significant role in helping to achieve this mission.

2.3 A Vision for the Future

By the year 2007, Pukaskwa National Park will be a stronger core protected wilderness area. It will protect a sample of the area's special heritage values and be linked to a network of other natural areas within the Boreal forest and the Lake Superior basin.

Through increased public- and private-sector partnerships, co-operative activities, and involvement in regional planning and ecosystem management programs, the Park will be managed, not in isolation, but as a key player in ecosystem management and regional tourism.

The private sector, RSTG, municipalities, other government agencies, visitors, and Parks Canada are all essential partners. These partnerships will work toward a common vision for the Lake Superior basin, operating as a team to ensure that the area's natural beauty and lifestyle are maintained.

As part of an active regional conservation network, the Park will work in close co-operation with the relevant agencies to address common issues concerning resource and environmental protection. In particular, the Park will work closely with neighbouring land owners and users to ensure a complementary approach to land management.

The Park's environment will be managed using accurate scientific information. Systematic research and monitoring programs will be in place to support resource protection and management objectives. The ecosystem will be managed on an integrated basis, rather than focusing on individual species or features alone. A program using sound co-operative research efforts will be established that continues to update the comprehensive resource information bank on which ecosystem protection is based.

The Park will continue to provide visitors with opportunities for special wilderness experiences of high quality within the Lake Superior basin. However, not all public needs or expectations can or will be met. Park programs, facilities, and services will be directed towards the following target groups: back-country users, day-users, campers, and organized educational groups.

Visitor and resource management techniques will be used to minimize the impact of visitors on the Park. Monitoring programs will be in place to ensure the protection of natural and cultural resources, while allowing appropriate visitor use. The Park will be in a position to fulfil its tourism and resource protection roles by monitoring trends and anticipating the external impacts (environmental, economic, recreational, tourism, political, and technological) that could affect the Park. Anticipated growth in visitation will be accommodated primarily in the spring and fall shoulder seasons and through mid-week use. The Park will be both a destination attraction for campers and hikers from outside the region and a popular day-use area for local residents.

Learning experiences of high quality will encourage Park visitors, regional residents, and all Canadians to understand and respect the national and international significance of this Park and to share the responsibility for protecting our common legacy. The educational role of the Park will be particularly enhanced for those people living within the Pukaskwa area in order to explain the Park's role in contributing to a sustainable environment and to encourage a sense of environmental stewardship.

Parks Canada will protect Pukaskwa as a national treasure within a special area where people can have an opportunity to experience and learn about a unique environment and be inspired to action.

2.4 *Purpose of the Park in the National Park System*

Pukaskwa National Park, which is managed by Parks Canada, is part of the Department of Canadian Heritage. The mission of Parks Canada in Ontario is as follows:

"We protect and create an understanding of nationally significant natural and cultural heritage in Ontario through our own and co-operative efforts. Through our leadership, we inspire others to take responsible action within and beyond our boundaries."

Pukaskwa's role within the National Park System is to protect a significant and representative part of the Central Boreal Uplands Region of Canada and the Great Lakes shoreline, and to encourage public understanding, appreciation, and enjoyment of its heritage so as to leave it unimpaired for this and future generations.

Apart from protecting representative natural resources and processes, Pukaskwa and other national parks have taken on new roles. They form part of a worldwide network of ecological benchmarks against which changes in local, regional, and global environments can be measured. As part of this network, Pukaskwa National Park will serve as an in situ gene pool to protect a part of the genetic diversity of our planet. With sound management and restoration practices, Pukaskwa National Park can also serve as a core protected area for achieving sustainable development strategies within the Lake Superior basin. Other protected areas in the natural region can assist in these functions.

Similarly, as areas around the Park are developed, Pukaskwa will assume greater importance as a protector of cultural resources.

2.5 Objectives

Natural Heritage Resources

To manage the ecosystem of which Pukaskwa National Park is a part, and to ensure the integrity of that ecosystem.

To protect the natural resources and processes in the Park, in particular those that are representative of the Central Boreal Uplands region and the Great Lakes shoreline.

To base the management of the natural resources of Pukaskwa National Park on sound scientific knowledge, co-ordinating research and resource management with partners responsible for managing adjacent lands.

Cultural Heritage Resources

To protect and preserve regionally and nationally significant cultural resources in Pukaskwa National Park, including archaeological and historical artifacts, cultural landscapes, and sites related to Aboriginal use and the historic development of the Park and the region.

To work with RSTG on understanding and bridging the gap between science and traditional knowledge.

To provide the greatest possible protection to those complexes, sites, features, structures, and artifacts that are representative, unique, sensitive, scarce, or threatened.

To emphasize the protection of those sites that are of singular cultural or ethnic importance, of intrinsic value, or of good research potential.

To base the management of the cultural resources of Pukaskwa National Park on sound scientific knowledge, co-ordinating research and resource management within the Park and liaising with partners responsible for managing cultural resources on adjacent lands and within the Lake Superior basin.

Public Opportunities

To assist people in making better heritage protection decisions through a range of enjoyable, inspirational, educational, and recreational opportunities.

To provide an opportunity for a diversity of quality visitor experiences for people of all ages, abilities, knowledge, and economic means, where these services are compatible with the mission and vision statements for the Park.

To provide educational opportunities that involve the public in a manner that reflects the main interpretive theme, "Wild Shore of an Inland Sea," and its associated messages so that people may have the satisfaction and enjoyment of learning about the natural and cultural heritage of the Park and the surrounding heritage area.

To provide a range of reception, orientation, information, and interpretive services in the Park in order to enable the public to understand and protect Park resources better and to enjoy their visit safely.

To provide a range of orientation, information, and interpretive services beyond Park boundaries and to encourage and assist partners to provide additional complementary services.

Community Involvement

In order to achieve the stated objectives under natural, cultural and public opportunities, we need to further our efforts with our partners and encourage increased public involvement in the management and operations of the Park.

To ensure that the treaty rights of the Robinson- Superior Treaty Group continue to be honoured in the Park.

To ensure that Pukaskwa National Park continues to demonstrate responsible environmental management.

To encourage and develop co-operative land management programs with neighbouring land managers in order to ensure the Park's ecological integrity and the delivery of services to the public.

To integrate initiatives for the protection and management of the Park's natural and cultural resources with those of other conservation and recreation agencies in the Lake Superior basin.

To continue to develop partnerships and co-operative strategies for enhancing scientific research, resource management, education, and sustainable tourism within the Lake Superior basin through means that are compatible with Parks Canada's mandate and the mission for the Park.

To provide opportunities for the public living in adjacent communities and the region to play a meaningful role in Park planning and plan implementation.

To develop co-operative agreements and strategies for enhancing sustainable regional tourism that are consistent with the mission and vision for the Park.

To enhance the Park's educational role, with the aim of working with the public to adopt an attitude of stewardship towards the heritage resources of the region.

2.6 Zoning Plan and Environmentally Sensitive Sites

Parks Canada has two objectives: protecting significant natural resources and processes, and providing for compatible visitor uses. The National Parks Act (1988) states that "maintenance of ecological integrity through the protection of natural resources shall be the first priority when considering park zoning and visitor use in a management plan". Because potential for conflict exists between these two objectives, careful land use management is required to ensure ecological integrity while allowing appropriate visitor use.

One management technique for achieving this optimal balance is the application of the national park zoning system. The system uses a resource-based approach by which the land and water areas within a national park are classified according to their need for protection and their ability to support visitor use and development. Both natural and cultural resources are assessed, along with a park's vision and objectives, in arriving at an appropriate zoning plan.

A five-part zoning system is used. Each zone corresponds to a different level of resource protection and visitor use. The zoning system, as it is currently used by Parks Canada, is summarized in Table 1.

TABLE I
ZONING SYSTEM SUMMARY

ZONE CLASS	ZONE PURPOSE	BOUNDARY CRITERIA	MANAGEMENT FRAMEWORK	
			RESOURCES	PUBLIC OPPORTUNITY
I SPECIAL PRESERVATION	SPECIFIC AREAS OR FEATURES WHICH DESERVE SPECIAL PRESERVATION BECAUSE THEY CONTAIN OR SUPPORT UNIQUE, RARE OR ENDANGERED FEATURES OR THE BEST EXAMPLES OF FEATURES.	THE NATURAL EXTENT AND BUFFER REQUIREMENTS OF DESIGNATED FEATURES.	STRICT RESOURCE PRESERVATION	USUALLY NO INTERNAL ACCESS. ONLY STRICTLY CONTROLLED AND NON-MOTORIZED ACCESS. VISITOR APPRECIATION AND PARK RESEARCH PROGRAMS CONSISTENT WITH RESOURCE PRESERVATION.
II WILDERNESS	EXTENSIVE AREAS WHICH ARE GOOD REPRESENTATIONS OF EACH OF THE NATURAL HISTORY THEMES OF THE PARK AND WHICH WILL BE MAINTAINED IN A WILDERNESS STATE.	THE NATURAL EXTENT AND BUFFER REQUIREMENTS OF NATURAL HISTORY THEMES AND ENVIRONMENTS IN AREAS 2000 HA AND GREATER.	PRESERVATION OF NATURAL RESOURCES.	INTERNAL ACCESS BY NON-MOTORIZED MEANS. DISPERSED ACTIVITIES PROVIDING EXPERIENCES CONSISTENT WITH RESOURCE PRESERVATION. PRIMITIVE CAMPING AREAS. PRIMITIVE ROOFED ACCOMMODATION INCLUDING EMERGENCY SHELTERS.
III NATURAL ENVIRONMENT	AREAS THAT ARE MAINTAINED AS NATURAL ENVIRONMENTS AND WHICH CAN SUSTAIN, WITH A MINIMUM OF LOW-DENSITY OUTDOOR ACTIVITIES WITH A MINIMUM OF RELATED FACILITIES.	THE EXTENT OF NATURAL ENVIRONMENTS PROVIDING OUTDOOR OPPORTUNITIES, AND REQUIRED BUFFER AREAS.	ORIENTED TO PRESERVATION OF NATURAL ENVIRONMENT SETTING.	INTERNAL ACCESS BY NON-MOTORIZED AND LIMITED MOTORIZED MEANS, INCLUDING IN THE NORTH, AUTHORIZED AIR CHARTER ACCESS TO RIVERS/LAKES. USUALLY DISPERSED ACTIVITIES, WITH MORE CONCENTRATED ACTIVITIES ASSOCIATED WITH LIMITED MOTORIZED ACCESS. RUSTIC, SMALL SCALE PERMANENT FIXED ROOF ACCOMMODATION FOR VISITOR USE AND OPERATIONAL USE. CAMPING FACILITIES ARE TO BE TO THE SEMI-PRIMITIVE LEVEL.
IV RECREATION	LIMITED AREAS THAT CAN ACCOMMODATE A BROAD RANGE OF EDUCATION, OUTDOOR RECREATION OPPORTUNITIES AND RELATED FACILITIES IN WAYS THAT RESPECT THE NATURAL LANDSCAPE AND THAT ARE SAFE AND CONVENIENT.	THE EXTENT OF OUTDOOR OPPORTUNITIES AND FACILITIES AND THEIR AREA OF IMMEDIATE IMPACT.	ORIENTED TO MINIMIZING IMPACT OF ACTIVITIES AND FACILITIES ON THE NATURAL LANDSCAPE.	OUTDOOR OPPORTUNITIES IN NATURAL LANDSCAPES OR SUPPORTED BY FACILITY DEVELOPMENT AND LANDSCAPE ALTERATION. CAMPING FACILITIES WILL BE TO THE BASIC SERVICED CATEGORY SMALL AND DECENTRALIZED ACCOMMODATION FACILITIES.
V PARK SERVICES	TOWNS AND VISITOR CENTRES IN CERTAIN EXISTING NATIONAL PARKS WHICH CONTAIN A CONCENTRATION OF VISITOR SERVICES AND SUPPORT FACILITIES AS WELL AS PARK ADMINISTRATION FUNCTIONS.	THE EXTENT OF SERVICES AND FACILITIES AND THEIR IMMEDIATE AREA OF IMPACT.	ORIENTED TO EMPHASIZING THE NATIONAL PARK SETTING AND VALUES IN THE LOCATION, DESIGN, AND OPERATION OF VISITOR SUPPORT SERVICES AND PARK ADMINISTRATION FUNCTIONS.	INTERNAL ACCESS BY NON-MOTORIZED AND MOTORIZED MEANS. CENTRALIZED VISITOR SUPPORT SERVICES AND PARK ADMINISTRATION ACTIVITIES. FACILITY-BASED OPPORTUNITIES. MAJOR CAMPING AREAS ADJACENT TO, OR WITHIN, A TOWN OR VISITOR CENTRE TO THE BASIC SERVICED CATEGORY, TOWN OR VISITOR CENTRE.

ZONE 1:
SPECIAL PRESERVATION AREAS

Definition

Special Preservation Area designations protect the best possible representation of characteristic features of the natural region, including populations of nationally and/or provincially endangered, threatened, or vulnerable plants and animals, as well as significant cultural resources.

Motorized access will not be permitted. In cases where the fragility of the area precludes any general access, every effort will be made to provide Park visitors with off-site programs and exhibits demonstrating the special characteristics of the zone.

Description

The following natural and cultural resources have been designated Zone 1 (refer to Map 4).

Woodland Caribou: The Park encompasses one of only 6 to 8 small remnant populations of Woodland Caribou along the north shore of Lake Superior. In order to provide adequate protection for this vulnerable species, important shoreline and island habitat has been designated, including calving areas and wintering range.

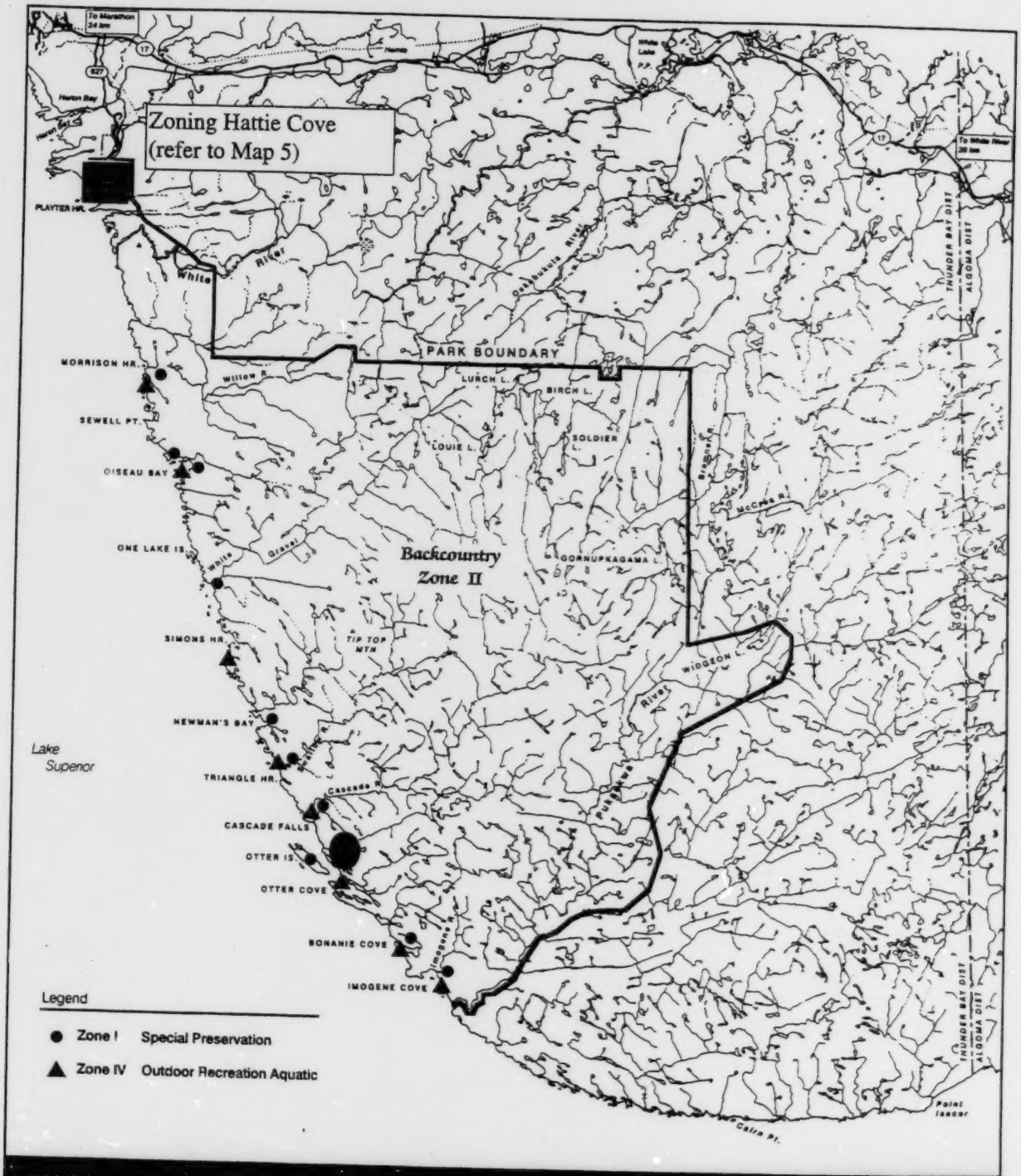
Arctic-Alpine Flora: Among the plants found along the Lake Superior shoreline are species of Arctic-Alpine affinity, which have an extensive gap in their range between this location and the shores of Hudson and James Bays. It is believed these plants migrated to the shores of Lake Superior shortly after the retreat of the last glaciers and have been able to survive there until the present time because of the relatively cool microclimatic conditions produced by Lake Superior. In order to protect these plants, portions of the shoreline have been designated.

Oiseau Bay Jack Pine Forest: Jack Pine, a fire-dependent species that generally requires medium- to high-intensity fires for optimal regeneration, is typically characterized by its even-aged stand structure. The Jack Pine forest located behind the main crescent beach at Oiseau Bay has been identified as having a unique fire history and as being rare within its range.

This Jack Pine forest is the only known area in Ontario with at least four intermingled fire-initiated age classes within a relatively small area. This complex pattern has been created over the last 200 years by a series of low-intensity surface fires. The diverse bird life of Oiseau Bay can be attributed to this historical incidence of fire. In view of the forest's educational and scientific value, it will require special preservation and management.

Acid-Sensitive Lakes: There are a number of naturally occurring acid-sensitive lakes within the Park. The often unique and sensitive aquatic populations found in these lakes require special protection and management practices.

The Pukaskwa Pit Structures: The Pukaskwa Pits are rock structures located on the cobble beaches of the Park's Lake Superior shoreline. The Pukaskwa Pits are remnants of Aboriginal use of northwestern Ontario some 500 to 1,000 years ago. In association with the designation of these features as Zone 1 areas, special efforts will be made to ensure their permanent protection.



Map 4: Zoning Backcountry

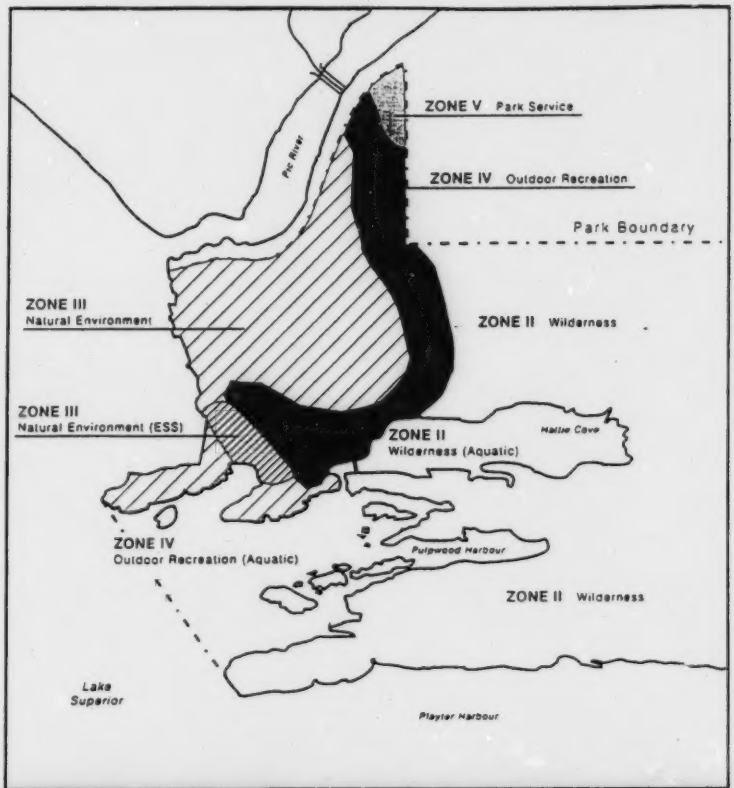
ZONE 2: WILDERNESS

Definition

Wilderness designation is used to protect extensive areas that offer good representations of a natural region and significant opportunities for remoteness and solitude.

Activities that provide the experience of wilderness will be encouraged only when they do not conflict with maintaining the wilderness itself. Consequently, limits may have to be placed on the number of users, and the types of activities may have to be restricted.

Once the Park is gazetted and operates under the National Parks Act, legislation to establish Wilderness Areas in the Park will be initiated. The boundaries and appropriate uses of proposed wilderness areas will be determined with public input.



Map 5: Zoning Hattie Cove

Wilderness areas in the Park are subject to resource harvesting activities by the Robinson-Superior Treaty Group as described in the signed treaty and in the agreement for establishing the Park.

Description

Zone 2 areas in the Park encompass the majority of the land within the Park, including the majority of the water area within Hattie Cove (refer to Maps 4 & 5).

ZONE 3: NATURAL ENVIRONMENT

Definition

Natural Environment areas are maintained as natural environments. They provide a range of opportunities for visitors to experience a park's natural heritage through low-density outdoor activities and appropriate services and facilities. While motorized public transport may be permitted where required for access, non-motorized transport will be preferred.

Description

One area in the Park has been designated Zone 3: the western and northern portion of Hattie Cove (refer to Map 5).

ZONE 4: OUTDOOR RECREATION

Definition

Outdoor Recreation areas are capable of accommodating a broad range of opportunities for education and outdoor recreation, and related facilities for visitor enjoyment, in ways that respect the natural landscape and the park environment. Motorized access will be permitted.

More specifically, Zone 4 designation for most of the Lake Superior portions of the Park will permit motor boats. No form of visitor facilities (e.g., docks or buoys) will be permitted in such areas. Activities in Zone 4 areas of Lake Superior will be limited to uses that are consistent with the wilderness character of the Park. Water-based visitors are required to be self-sufficient.

Description

Two areas in the Park have been designated Zone 4 (refer to Maps 4 & 5):

- the portion of the Hattie Cove area that contains major visitor facilities
- the Lake Superior waters within the Park, with the exception of the majority of the water area within Hattie Cove.

For the Lake Superior waters within the Park that are designated Zone 4, it is impractical and inadvisable to prohibit motor boats. Given both the wild nature of the Lake and visitors' awareness of water conditions, motorized boating activities are not expected to conflict with permitted activities in adjacent zones on the land base. Therefore, with the exception of the majority of the water area in Hattie Cove, all Lake Superior waters within the Park are designated Zone 4, including navigable portions of major rivers emptying into Lake Superior, up to the first natural barrier.

ZONE 5: PARK SERVICES

Definition

Park operation and administrative functions will be accommodated in this zone. Motorized access will be permitted. Services and facilities will be provided in a manner that reflects the national park setting.

Description

The administration building and compound in the Hattie Cove area constitute the Zone 5 area in the Park (refer to Map 5).

ENVIRONMENTALLY SENSITIVE SITES (ESS)

In addition to the valued resources protected within Zone 1 areas, there are a substantial number of natural and cultural resources that warrant protection but are small in extent, are located near disturbed or intensively used areas, or are of somewhat lesser significance than the valued resources in Zone 1 areas. The designation of Environmentally Sensitive Sites is essential to the protection of the full range of valued resources present in the Park. This designation provides a means by which these resources can be protected, without completely restricting other Park uses in the vicinity.

Species and areas in the Park that warrant the Environmentally Sensitive Site designation include designated plant species, historic structures, lakes with sensitive salmonid populations, and sensitive wildlife habitats.

The degree of protection required at each site will be determined through an assessment of the importance and sensitivity of each resource. A program will be developed to determine the management practices required to protect each site.

As new information on Park resources is obtained, it may be necessary to refine the location of Environmentally Sensitive Sites or to identify new ones. If necessary, sites may also be removed from this designation. Changes to the designation of Environmentally Sensitive Sites will not require a revision to the Management Plan.

Non-Conforming Uses

A non-conforming activity is the use of specific lands in a manner at variance with the provisions of the relevant zone. The following non-conforming uses are located in the Park:

- the Ontario Hydro transmission corridor located in the northern and northwestern portion of the Park
- the access route associated with the mineralized zone near Playter Harbour
- Otter Cove Light Station.

Parks Canada has signed an agreement that allows Ontario Hydro to occupy a strip of land in order to maintain and operate the existing 230-kv electrical power transmission line. The agreement is a licence and does not transfer any exclusive proprietary rights or leasehold interest to Ontario Hydro. While it is not intended that the transmission corridor be removed from the Park, special management practices will be followed to minimize its impact on the Zone 2 area in which it is located. Guidelines regarding maintenance practices have been established in consultation with Ontario Hydro to maximize environmental protection.

A prospective mineral deposit has been identified inland from Playter Harbour and east of the Park boundary. The agreement developed with the Province of Ontario includes provisions that will:

- license the extraction of these minerals
- allow a transportation route to be established from the mineral deposit to Playter Harbour
- allow docking facilities to be established at Playter Harbour.

The corridor lands will not be included in the Park until the provincial government advises Parks Canada that the access route is not required. Subject to the agreement of the Ontario Government and as an alternative to transportation arrangements through the Park, Parks Canada has the option of developing and financing a transportation route outside the Park. These arrangements are subject to review at 10-year intervals by Parks Canada and the Province.

The Otter Cove Light Station is necessary to ensure the safe passage of vessels on this part of Lake Superior.

3.0 THE NATURAL ENVIRONMENT

3.1 Background

If we look down on the north shore of Lake Superior from a satellite, we see that several features dominate the landscape: the vast waters of Lake Superior, the rugged shoreline, the boreal mixed-wood forests, the Great Lakes/St. Lawrence transitional forest to the south, and human activity illustrated by roads, settlements, railways, and the timber and mining industries.

From this viewpoint, it is self-evident that the ecological or ecosystem approach to Park management demands consideration of conservation on a regional scale, including "Greater Park Ecosystems", core protected areas, buffers, appropriate adjacent land-uses, and networks of connected areas.

Pukaskwa National Park is one of a network of protected areas within the Lake Superior basin, which is connected to the Great Lakes basin, a continental feature. Each of these protected areas plays a role in ensuring the long-term biodiversity of the Great Lakes watershed, especially the Lake Superior component. Since the Lake Superior watershed represents the top of the Great Lakes system, its overall quality affects everything downstream.

The greatest constraints to a biogeographically functional area are the effects of changing land uses. Because the various ecosystems that touch the Park are interconnected, it is essential that any impact on the long-term viability of these ecosystems be minimized.

3.2 The Current Situation

The National Parks Act requires that all national parks protect the ecological integrity of a representative sample of the natural region(s) each park is located in. The highest degree of ecological integrity exists where the structure and function of an ecosystem are unimpaired by stresses induced by human activity and are likely to continue in that state.

Since the Park was established, resource studies and research have led to a greater awareness of the complexity of the Park's ecosystems.

Mining, forestry, hydro, and fire control activities, along with acid rain and global climate change, are some of the external ecosystem stresses threatening the integrity and biodiversity of the Pukaskwa ecosystem. Internal ecosystem stresses include fire control practices, visitor use activities, and the development of Park facilities.

The natural resources of the areas on the north shore of Lake Superior are managed by a number of federal, provincial, municipal, aboriginal, corporate, and private land managers. In recognition of the complexity of these agencies' jurisdictions, there is a need for a co-ordinated approach to natural resource management.

3.3 Our Vision for the Future

The "Greater Park Ecosystem" will extend beyond the boundaries of the Park.

The long-term outcome of resource management will be the maintenance of the ecosystem's ability to adapt to change, both natural and human-induced. This will be accomplished by protecting and maintaining or restoring the natural processes that make this adaptation possible.

The protection of species of both flora and fauna classified as endangered, threatened, or vulnerable will continue to be assigned a high priority.

Residents of and visitors to the "Greater Pukaskwa Ecosystem" will share greater responsibility for the stewardship of Park resources.

Parks Canada will be recognized throughout the region as a credible source for scientific data on natural resources and as an effective law enforcement agency.

Success will be achieved through:

- the ecosystem approach to resource management
- development of co-operative partnerships with federal, provincial, aboriginal, municipal, and corporate land-management agencies
- a regional communications program that enhances public understanding of the ecosystem concept
- management plans for publicly and privately owned natural resources that transcend political boundaries.

3.4 Initiatives

3.4.1 Ecosystem-Based Management

The Park is a core protected area consisting of four constituent parts: Lake Superior, the 15-km shore zone (which is heavily influenced by Lake Superior), boreal mixed-wood forest, and transitional mixed southern forest.

Many species of vegetation and wildlife reach their northern or southern limits in the Park. Range limits change quickly, reflecting both continuous natural alterations in habitat and those caused by human beings.

The Park does not contain all the species and communities found in the Lake Superior basin. Furthermore, those populations of species found within the Park are not necessarily viable over the long term. In order to protect the ecological integrity of a representative sample of the region, resources must be protected and managed on the scale of the entire ecosystem.

Connected areas of natural habitat are vital to protecting ecosystems. Land uses in the region surrounding the Park has altered the natural environment and created pockets of natural habitats. In order to protect the biodiversity of the region, it is critical that there be links between these habitat fragments to permit species movement. A regional-scale initiative is currently in the early stages of development to try to deal with these issues.

Initiatives

Parks Canada will use an ecosystem approach to resource management. Parks Canada will actively encourage partner land-management agencies to co-operate in taking responsibility for stewardship of the region's natural resources. The focus will be on the Greater Park Ecosystem. Some of the key partner land-management agencies are the Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources, the Robinson-Superior Treaty Group, the Town of Marathon, the Town of White River, and the forestry, mining, and hydro companies located on lands adjacent to the Park.

3.4.2 Ecosystem Boundaries

The Park protects only a portion of the region's ecosystems. The terrestrial and Lake Superior aquatic-wetland ecosystems need to be spatially and biologically defined. Certain core areas (some of which are already protected or are difficult to get to) warrant attention because of their particular value as Canadian heritage resources, their long-term viability, or the lack of degradation due to human presence and use. An integrated approach to linking these core natural areas will ensure that their relationship to the larger ecosystems will be respected.

Initiatives

Pukaskwa National Park will be managed in such a way as to maintain and enhance the ecological integrity of the Park and region. This will be reflected in communications with other agencies and the public.

The Natural Resource Management Program will focus on ecological boundaries rather than political or legal boundaries.

The boundaries for the Pukaskwa ecosystems will be defined and described using the theories and principles of conservation biology.

3.4.3 Ecosystem Evaluation and Function

3.4.3.1 Framework

Given the overall goal of Pukaskwa National Park is to protect an area representative of part of the Lake Superior basin ecosystem, the need for an evaluation of the park ecosystems must be addressed. Park ecosystems will be evaluated on the basis of their:

Representivity: A description of the natural region and how the Park represents this area is the crucial first stage in the process since it allows identification of the ecosystems to be protected and quantitative definition of the ecological integrity of the system.

Ecological Indicators: Keystone species are those that have been identified as playing a key role in their environment. If one or more of the key species disappears, that may be a harbinger of problems in their environment, reflecting the strong functional links between plants and animals. By monitoring key species and top predators, we may contribute to determining the integrity of the ecosystem.

Biological Diversity: Biological diversity, or biodiversity, does not just refer to species of plants, animals, and organisms, but to all levels of organization from DNA molecules and genetic diversity through populations, species, communities, and ecosystems to major biomes.

Monitoring systems will be developed and implemented to measure:

- population sizes of selected species with different habitat requirements
- population dynamics of selected species (recruitment rates, population age structure, total population size, mortality)
- different types of biodiversity to ensure a balance among and between levels of organization.

Genetic Resources: The Greater Pukaskwa ecosystem will be managed to minimize the island effect of fragmented habitats on species composition and viability. This may include managing to ensure adequate population size and genetic interchange. The prevention or reversal of fragmented habitats will be part of our overall strategy.

Patterns of Succession: Although the major natural disturbances in the Pukaskwa ecosystem have been studied, many questions and gaps in baseline data remain. These disturbances have far-reaching consequences over both space and time.

The Park will continue to fill gaps in knowledge and update existing resource information. Both will then be compared to baseline data so as to highlight changes in species dynamics (size, numbers, type, etc.).

Natural Community Structure and Function: By gathering more scientific data on key species and utilizing ecosystem models, Parks Canada may be able to predict or forecast how ecosystem components may react to various disturbances or changes, whether they are natural or caused by humans.

Initiatives

The Park's ecosystems will be evaluated based on representivity, ecological indicators, biological diversity, genetic resources, patterns of succession, and the structure and function of natural communities.

3.4.3.2 *Natural Heritage Elements*

Vegetation

The Park is representative of the boreal forest. Coniferous forests dominate the northern part of the Park ecosystem, while deciduous and mixed woods are more prevalent to the south. The St. Lawrence Forest Region encroaches into the southeast part of the Park. It also includes the Arctic-Alpine disjunct species and the Great Lakes endemics. Peatlands are a common feature wherever drainage is poor.

Park vegetation is regulated by succession, periodic occurrences of fire and insect infestations, and the continuing influence of climate and other lesser forces. This past and continuing form of regulation stands to be superseded, however, by a much more dramatic force: human impact. In the past, this effect has been localized for the most part, but it is now poised to have a much greater influence.

This will result from the disruption of the periodic occurrences of fire and insects, the increase in Park developments and visitor numbers, the continuing increase in acid deposition levels, the alteration of the global climate, and the expansion of forest and mining operations outside the Park. The overall effect will encourage the fragmentation of the Park into "islands" of habitat, which will inevitably and drastically alter the vegetation.

The overall framework for vegetation management should be to minimize the changes to lands external to the Park while retaining the Park's ecological integrity.

Objective

The Park's purpose, in the context of vegetation, will be to ensure continued representativity of the boreal forest with emphasis inland on boreal mixed-wood ecosystems, the Great Lakes endemics, and a remnant complement of Arctic-Alpine species along the Lake Superior shoreline, while also recognizing an increasing presence of elements of the Great Lakes/St. Lawrence Forest region throughout the Park.

Initiatives

Review, update, and implement the draft Vegetation Management Plan (1989). The amended plan will use an ecosystem approach to vegetation management.

Develop and implement strategies for the active management of vegetation through the use of fire and other techniques in order to circumvent changes that threaten the ecological integrity of the Park's vegetation as defined above.

Promote the Park as a regional biodiversity reserve and, as such, a benchmark for regional efforts to manage vegetation on the basis of national park values.

The following elements are part of the overall Vegetation Management Program for the Park: Fire Management, Forest Insects and Diseases, Non-Native Vegetation, and Designated Vegetation.

Fire Management

Parks Canada policy recognizes fire as a natural process, which, under ideal circumstances, should be allowed to run its course. However, the policy also identifies certain circumstances under which manipulation of a natural process is warranted. Fire suppression and the use of fire are both valid management approaches.

Fire is one of the dominant natural processes within the Park, and one that significantly influences the Park ecosystem. Yet the area contained within the Park has been under a fire exclusion policy for many decades. In the last 30 to 40 years, a significant number of fires have been suppressed, interrupting the flow of development stages and disrupting the structure and dynamics of the Park ecosystem. This conclusion is supported by the large age-class gap in the younger age classes, the bell-shaped structure of the age-class distribution, and the dominance of mixed-wood stands with a strong representation of balsam fir in the canopy. Thus the representativity of the Park as an example of the Central Boreal Uplands is threatened.

Reversing these changes requires the re-introduction of a natural fire regime and restoration of the structure and dynamics of the ecosystem. However, a natural fire regime can no longer be achieved merely by letting natural fires burn, because of the following limiting conditions: fuel accumulations within the Park have increased (particularly as a result of Spruce Budworm infestation), the probability of high intensity uncontrollable fires has increased, and unnatural landscape patterns would be created.

Allowing all natural (lightning) ignitions to burn may not meet the ecological objectives of the Park and, in addition, would place life, property, and other values at great risk. Therefore lightning ignitions around the Park will continue to be suppressed.

Initiatives

Parks Canada will review, update, and implement the draft Fire Management Plan (1992).

Recognizing the ecological role that fire plays in the boreal mixed-wood ecosystem, Parks Canada will implement a comprehensive, integrated, and pro-active Fire Management Program in Pukaskwa National Park within the next five years (1994/1995 to 1999/2000).

All wildfires that threaten Park facilities, public safety, or neighbouring lands, regardless of ignition source, will be actively suppressed in co-operation with other national parks, the Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources, and Forestry Canada.

Research will continue into the use of fire as a resource management tool and the role it plays in the various types of vegetation associations in the Park.

Planned ignition fires will be permitted in selected areas where they are needed to maintain natural vegetation processes.

Forest Insects and Disease

Insects and disease are recognized as critical elements in the ecosystem. The structure, composition, and distribution of vegetation in the Pukaskwa ecosystem is greatly influenced by the Spruce Budworm in particular. It has a complex and far-reaching influence associated with the periodic opening of the forest canopy through the epidemic death of balsam fir and spruce. It also indirectly predisposes forest fuels to fire.

Initiatives

Parks Canada will continue its policy of non-intervention.

Important insects and diseases will continue to be monitored annually by Forestry Canada in co-operation with the Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources and Parks Canada.

The commercial value of the region's forests may require judicious management of certain insects and diseases on adjacent lands during years of epidemic populations. Parks Canada will work closely with provincial authorities in the event that this is necessary, with the focus on the development and delivery of a public information program.

An interactive computer model, integrated with fire management, will be developed further to provide a better understanding of the role the Spruce Budworm plays in the Greater Pukaskwa Ecosystem.

Non-Native Vegetation

Preliminary studies show that there are relatively few non-native plant species in the Pukaskwa area. Those that do exist are associated with disturbed areas around Park facilities and other areas modified by human activity.

Initiatives

The Park will minimize the presence of non-native vegetation whenever possible, carry out opportunistic monitoring for new invasive species, and, where they are found, take the necessary steps to remove them. The use of herbicides will be minimized or eliminated.

Parks Canada will work with the public and other land-management agencies to monitor non-native vegetation species and will participate in co-operative public education programs. Parks Canada will encourage appropriate management of noxious, non-native vegetation species throughout the region.

Designated Vegetation

Some of the plants classified by the Committee on the Status of Endangered Wildlife in Canada (COSEWIC) as endangered, threatened, or vulnerable are found in Pukaskwa. A management strategy for the long-term protection, understanding, and appreciation of these plants is mandatory.

Initiatives

The Park will continue to protect designated vegetation habitats and populations to ensure perpetuation of these species. The Vegetation Management Plan will be reviewed and updated, and information will be shared with other resource management agencies. The viability of populations will be monitored to evaluate the success of the protective measures taken.

The Park will foster and participate in studies on designated species of vegetation in the region and will encourage their protection. The Park will participate in public education programs and encourage appropriate management initiatives.

Wildlife Management

The Park serves as habitat for a great variety of wildlife species, including (in part) Moose, Caribou, Wolves, Lynx, Black Bears, Marten, Otter, Red Fox, Great Blue Heron, Beaver, Northern Flying Squirrel, and Woodchuck. Wildlife depends on a complex and tightly interwoven set of ecological factors, including habitats. Because those habitats result in turn from the interplay of such ecological factors as vegetation, water, climate, fire, and physiographic features, wildlife management cannot take place in isolation.

During the period leading up to the establishment of the Park, extensive negotiations took place between the Robinson-Superior Treaty Group (RSTG) and Parks Canada. These negotiations resulted in an agreement that ensures members of the RSTG rights to hunt, fish, and trap on Park lands. In addition to this agreement, Parks policy and national management directives provide direction and conditions under which traditional harvesting is permitted within national parks.

Objective

The Park's purpose, in the context of wildlife, will be to ensure continued representativity, viability, and diversity

of species that depend on the habitat and dynamic processes associated with the boreal mixed-wood forests, the Lake Superior coastline, and the transitional Great Lakes/St. Lawrence forests found within the Pukaskwa ecosystem.

Initiatives

A comprehensive, integrated, and pro-active wildlife management strategy that ensures viable wildlife populations will be developed for the Park. It will also ensure that the effects of Native harvesting and other human activities do not negatively influence ungulate populations or ungulate/predator interactions. This strategy will use an ecosystem approach, be linked closely to vegetation processes and dynamics, and address the need for a dynamic and cost-effective monitoring program.

A joint wildlife management strategy for renewable resource harvesting will be developed in conjunction with representatives of the Robinson-Superior Treaty Group, in order to meet Parks Canada's commitment to allow Native harvesting and traditional-use activities within the Park.

Harvesting activities will be monitored through hunter and trapper reports in conjunction with the Robinson-Superior Treaty Group.

Parks Canada will work with other agencies to ensure that sufficient populations of wildlife and habitat for them are found in the ecosystem, in order to permit interaction between populations inside and outside the Park. Where appropriate, joint management initiatives may be undertaken.

Public education programs will be developed by Parks Canada and its partners to strengthen understanding of the ecological relationships between wildlife species and the habitats on which they depend.

The following creatures are part of the overall wildlife management program for the Park: ungulates, predators, fur-bearers, avifauna, small mammals, and herptiles.

Ungulates

Ungulate species that inhabit the Pukaskwa ecosystem include Moose, Woodland Caribou, and White-tail Deer. Each species plays a critical ecological role.

Moose (a significant herbivore and prey species) are a common inhabitant, with densities of 0.24 per km2. The distribution of Woodland Caribou, historically the dominant ungulate of the boreal forest, has shifted north, leaving small remnant populations along a 2-to-15-km strip along the north shore of Lake Superior. Pukaskwa contains one of only 6 or 8 remnant coastal populations in the region, making these animals increasingly important from the standpoint of biodiversity.

Initiatives

Ensure protection of key Caribou habitat along the Lake Superior coast, particularly calving and breeding areas, through Park zoning and the development of visitor access strategies.

Continue to survey Caribou populations in order to monitor the status of this rare species.

Continue to monitor Moose populations in order to provide trend data.

Monitor the presence of White-tail Deer in the Pukaskwa ecosystem on an opportunistic basis.

Predators

The major predator species found within the Park include Wolves, Black Bears, Lynx, and Marten. Very little detailed population information is available for any of these species.

Wolf numbers have been estimated from track counts and observations during Moose and Caribou surveys. Based on these surveys and the scientific literature, Wolf densities are estimated at approximately 15 per 1,000 km2.

There is no information available on the number of Black Bears in the Park, or on their distribution and den sites.

Wolves play a critical role as the top predator in the Pukaskwa ecosystem, preying primarily upon Moose, Beaver, and Caribou. Black Bears are hypothesized to play an important role in the control of Caribou populations through predation on calves.

Initiatives

Complete the predator/prey study currently under way in order to determine wolf population size, structure, and dynamics as they relate to major prey species and habitat in the Pukaskwa area.

Ensure an up-to-date Bear management plan that outlines the procedures necessary to minimize and deal with conflicts between Bears and human beings.

Determine, through research and study, the key predator/prey processes in the Pukaskwa ecosystem and their relationship to habitat and changes in land use.

Fur-Bearers

Fur-bearers in the Pukaskwa ecosystem include such species as Marten, Fisher, Lynx, and Beaver. Population and distribution data for these species were collected in the early 1970s and 1980s in order to monitor the effects that Native harvesting activities would have.

Twelve trapping areas fall wholly or partly within the Park. Trapping in these areas was fairly consistent between 1952 and 1966 (before the Park was established). Except for two periods in the late 1960s and early 1970s, little trapping has taken place from 1966 to the present.

Initiatives

Complete the update to the Fur-Bearer Management Plan (1986).

Revise and re-institute monitoring of fur-bearing species in the trapline areas that are expected to become active in order to re-determine distribution and population levels and trends.

As part of the joint management strategy with the Robinson-Superior Treaty Group, establish a monitoring and feedback process with trappers to determine levels of trapping effort and catch.

Avifauna

A detailed survey of avifauna species was carried out in the Park in the late 1970s. In addition, shoreline censuses of colonial nesters (Herring Gulls and Great Blue Herons) have been carried out since 1983. A total of 201 bird species has been recorded, with another 35 species expected to be present, based on sightings in similar habitats adjacent to the Park. Pukaskwa contains a strikingly high percentage of species representative of the boreal forest.

Initiatives

Parks Canada will continue to monitor avifauna status in conjunction with the Canadian Wildlife Service and other agencies.

Parks Canada will encourage and participate in inter-agency initiatives to reduce forest fragmentation and ensure the availability of critical habitat components.

In co-operation with its partners, Parks Canada will complete avifauna research in order to better understand and ensure the sustainability of this element of the Park ecosystem.

Herptiles

Very little is known about the distribution and population dynamics of amphibians and reptiles in the Park. A list of the amphibians and reptiles expected to be present in the Park has been compiled from species range maps and from the Royal Ontario Museum's Checklist of Amphibians and Reptiles of Canada. Limited presence/absence data show that, to date, only eight of 13 species of reptile/amphibian are known to inhabit the ecosystem.

Initiatives

Working with partners, Parks Canada will complete amphibian and reptile inventory, research, and monitoring in order to better understand and ensure the sustainability of this element of the Park ecosystem.

Small Mammals

Small mammals are represented by five families in the Park: Beavers, Squirrels/Chipmunks, Mice/Voles, Muskrats, and Porcupines. Of these, the Beaver plays an important ecological role as an agent of change in vegetative and aquatic ecosystems.

Initiatives

Parks Canada, working with its partners, will complete small mammal inventory, research, and monitoring in order to better understand and ensure the sustainability of this element of the Park ecosystem.

Aquatic Ecosystems

The Park's aquatic component is a representative and integral component of both the Lake Superior drainage basin and the Precambrian Shield region. It includes parts of 14 major watersheds, which are composed in turn of an intricate array of medium- and fast-flowing streams and rivers, ranging from the Pukaskwa River in the south to

the White River in the north. Some 128 kilometres of Lake Superior shoreline, interspersed with numerous rocky headlands, shoals, islands, sheltered coves, and sand and cobble beaches, contribute to the Park's coastal aquatic habitat. More than 951 inland lakes, ranging in size from small, acidic, headwater bog lakes to larger, slightly more nutrient-rich lakes exist within Park boundaries. Wetlands within the Park appear as small localized bogs, fens, and marshes.

As many as 56 fish species are known to inhabit the Park's aquatic ecosystem component; many species occupy nearshore and offshore zones along the Park's coastline. A variety of sport fish species, including Lake Trout, Rainbow and Brook Trout, Coho and Pink Salmon, Northern Pike, and Walleye, as well as a broad range of pelagic and inland forage species, frequent the Park's coastal, lotic, and lentic environments.

Recognized in Parks Canada policy as traditional and recreational activities of long standing in Canada's National Parks, resource harvesting and sport fishing have long been associated with the Park and the surrounding region. Members of the Robinson-Superior Treaty Group have traditionally used the Park's coastal and inland waters for their fishing grounds, while more recently, Park visitors have engaged in sport fishing as a recreational wilderness activity in some of the Park's more accessible coastal and inland boundary waters. Sport fishing activities in the Park have traditionally been carried out in compliance with the Ontario Fishery Regulations.

The Park's aquatic environment has been strongly shaped and influenced by such natural features and phenomena as glaciation, bedrock and soil types, and climate. Recently, however, other potentially more influential forces have emerged, which may alter dramatically the natural balance of this extensive ecosystem component. Many of these forces have originated, and will continue to originate outside Park boundaries, with some impacts occurring on a regional and even an international scale.

Increasing fishing pressure on coastal and inland waters, adjacent commercial fishing activities, the ever continuing effects of acid and trace-metal deposition, expanding mining and logging activities around the Park's perimeter, and uncontrolled introduction and dispersal of exotic species into coastal waters and inland watersheds all threaten to seriously compromise the natural integrity of the Park's aquatic communities and the quality of its waters. The challenge for Pukaskwa National Park will be to control and/or minimize those factors that will have an impact on an ecosystem component that is already limited to a naturally low level of biological production.

Objectives

The Park's purpose, in the context of aquatic ecosystems, will be to ensure representativity, viability, and diversity of habitats, species, and dynamic processes associated with the Lake Superior Natural Marine Region, with an emphasis on PreCambrian Shield lacustrine, riverine, wetland, and coastal ecosystem components characteristic of the Lake Superior drainage basin.

Initiatives

Parks Canada will develop a comprehensive, integrated, and pro-active aquatic ecosystem management strategy for Pukaskwa that ensures:

- *that riparian systems and associated species are healthy*
- *that the effects of Native harvest and sport fishing activities do not negatively influence populations' viability and diversity*
- *that public health and water-quality concerns are incorporated.*

The strategy will use an ecosystem approach and address the need for a dynamic and cost-effective monitoring program on a watershed basis.

Parks Canada will work closely with the Robinson-Superior Treaty Group in monitoring Native harvest of sport-fish species in the Park.

Parks Canada will develop a public education program to strengthen understanding of the ecological relationships between Park riparian species and the habitats on which they depend.

The following elements are part of the overall aquatic ecosystem management program for the Park: water quality, sport fishing, and coastal-marine interface.

Water Quality

The quality of the water is the predominant factor associated with the sustainability of the Greater Pukaskwa aquatic ecosystem component. Indicative of the greater Shield region, the Park ecosystem is characterized by water of naturally restricted nutrient availability, generally high to extreme susceptibility to acidification, and a naturally high content of some metals. Consequently, various existing and emerging factors have altered the natural water quality within the greater ecosystem and stand to seriously jeopardize the life processes of endemic aquatic biota.

Acid and trace-metal deposition, augmented by natural metal leaching, commonly exceeds levels for survival by freshwater aquatic life and for consumption by human beings. In addition to the long-range transport of atmospheric pollutants over the Park ecosystem, encroaching extractive mining and logging activities around the Park's north and east boundaries have warranted closer monitoring of the Park's inland watersheds to determine rates of change associated with waterborne contaminant loading.

During the 1970s and 1980s, the provincial Ministry of Environment conducted studies to determine the extent to which acid precipitation had affected selected lakes in the Park.

Initiatives

Parks Canada will work closely with other federal and provincial agencies and jurisdictions to continue monitoring the effects of waterborne and long-range atmospheric pollutants on the Greater Pukaskwa Ecosystem.

Parks Canada will continue to work closely with the Inland Waters Directorate to investigate the effect acid precipitation and changes in land use have had on inland watersheds within the Park, with particular emphasis on its major watersheds and headwater areas.

Parks Canada will support other federal and provincial research agencies and the private sector involved in the remediation of toxic contaminants and will encourage their initiatives through participation in public education programs.

Parks Canada will address human health and safety issues in its aquatic ecosystem management program in the Park through public education programs.

Sport-Fish Management

Pukaskwa has recently undertaken a standardized and systematic study to better determine species assemblages and reproduction levels in its inland waters and coastal reaches. This has revealed a low to marginal rate of reproduction among the Park's sport-fish populations, with patterns of 'regionalization' among individual species. There are relatively few documented non-native fish species in Park waters. Studies and records also show that there are no nationally endangered species within Park waters; however, rare or unique species do exist in the Park.

Over time, a combination of almost entirely human-induced impacts has emerged that now threaten the distribution and natural integrity of fish communities in Park watersheds. Significant increases in angling pressure in the Park's inland waters are predicted, which will have a further impact on already sparse populations of top-predator sport-fish species. Changes in water quality associated with significant inputs of acid, organic, and trace metal deposition, particularly in headwater lakes and streams in the Park, place an abnormal amount of stress on the natural life processes of sensitive fish populations. Even more so, unusually high levels of bio-accumulated metals such as mercury have imposed a potentially seriously high level of risk to human health in the harvesting of sport-fish species. Historical stocking programs in the Park's inland waters were often carried out with little regard for such factors as habitat suitability and pre-existing naturally occurring fish communities.

These factors have combined with an already existing natural limiting factor: the low nutrient availability and subsequently limited biological productivity typical of aquatic ecosystems in the relatively infertile Precambrian Shield region. Collectively, they stand to undermine the Park's ecological representation of the Lake Superior natural region.

Initiatives

Parks Canada will complete an Aquatic Resources Inventory Program for the Park in order to provide a comprehensive data base on which a management strategy can be developed.

Parks Canada will promote, develop, and maintain strategies to ensure the continued protection of sport-fish resources and the visiting public in Pukaskwa National Park, while also ensuring that wilderness and traditional harvesting activities continue where riparian productivity and population dynamics permit.

Parks Canada will take steps to protect nationally significant, unique, and representative fish species in the Park and will participate in programs to encourage their protection in the region.

Parks Canada will work closely with other management agencies to monitor and control non-native fish species and will promote and participate in co-operative public education programs for their management.

Coastal-Marine Interface

Management of the portion of Lake Superior that lies within Park boundaries has traditionally been done co-operatively by both Parks Canada and the Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources. This relationship will continue.

The Park will focus on the protection of naturally sustaining fish populations within the Lake Superior basin. Commercial fishing, recognized as resource exploitation in Parks Canada policy, will be prohibited in that portion of Lake Superior within Park boundaries.

Water quality concerns in the Lake Superior basin are also of multi-jurisdictional concern. The Park will participate with other management agencies around the basin in the areas of toxic substance control and management in order to achieve the goal of restoring the quality of water in the basin to its natural state.

To preserve the ecological integrity of the Greater Pukaskwa Ecosystem, a co-operative strategy among all Lake Superior management jurisdictions is required. It will call for the protection of naturally sustaining fish communities and the restoration of the quality of water in the basin to its natural state.

Initiatives

Parks Canada will work closely with other management agencies to promote the protection of the Lake Superior basin and will promote, develop, and maintain strategies to ensure the continued protection of the coastal component of the Greater Pukaskwa Ecosystem.

Parks Canada will work closely with other management agencies to monitor and control non-native fish species in the Lake Superior basin and will promote and participate in co-operative education programs for their management.

3.4.4 Ecosystem Monitoring

To assess the effectiveness of the strategies used to manage the ecological resources, a systematic, effective monitoring system and complementary research program with a regular reporting schedule must be developed. This must include critical thresholds to be used as decision points for further action. Data collected must be analyzed to determine its significance, and this significance must be reported to management.

The Park's resource monitoring strategies must be assessed to determine whether present programs address our ecosystem goals. This may mean changes in our resource program, such as terminating unnecessary programs and initiating new ones.

3.4.4.1 *Monitoring*

The status of the Park's ecosystems will indicate how well a representative sample of the Lake Superior basin, within the natural region represented by the Park, is being protected. Useful information on the status of these ecosystems is essential to their long-term health and diversity.

Status is measured through monitoring ecosystem structure, composition, and processes, and by highlighting rare or important species, species groups, or communities that can be used as indicators of the Park's ecological integrity. In order to demonstrate how well ecological integrity is being protected, Parks Canada reports biannually to provide input to the "State of the Parks" and subsequent "State of the Environment" Reports.

Initiatives

Parks Canada will complete its ecological inventories and fully establish and maintain a geographic information system. Parks Canada will also design and implement a systematic means of monitoring natural resources and visitor impacts. Parks Canada will use this information to manage Park operations, facilities, and visitor activities so they have minimal adverse impacts on Park resources.

Parks Canada will assess ecosystem-based initiatives to conserve natural resources in order to refine the Park Ecosystem Conservation Plan, and evaluate the success of directions in the Park Management Plan during its review cycle.

Parks Canada will work with its resource protection and management partners to help evaluate the success of natural heritage conservation and environmental protection in the surrounding region. This will include providing access to the Park's information base, experience, and staff expertise in order to facilitate and enhance regional initiatives compatible with the Park's objectives.

Parks Canada will analyze critical ecosystem components and processes in order to prepare an evaluation of the status of the ecosystem and the state of the Park's natural resources as input to the "State of the Parks" report.

3.4.4.2 Research

Parks Canada has very limited research capabilities and therefore must work in close co-operation with scientists and educational institutions.

Parks Canada participates in research both as a client and as a partner. It is a client when projects are carried out to help protect and manage Park resources. It is a partner when the Park is used for research that contributes to the Park's role as an environmental benchmark. Research on Park resources is managed by a permit process. Proposals are subject to an environmental assessment. Projects are often assisted operationally by the Park; for example, Park staff, facilities, and transportation can be made available.

Initiatives

Parks Canada will identify and notify potential research partners of the Park's research needs and support capabilities, and will endeavour to provide a positive environment for research.

Parks Canada will co-operate in research initiatives by partner land-management agencies and will share knowledge of resources and staff expertise.

3.4.5 Impacts on the Ecosystem

3.4.5.1 Activity Impacts

The impact of all activities affecting the Park will be identified and assessed in order to determine the possible effects on the ecosystem. Further to this, all activities conducted within the Park will be assessed to determine their impact on adjacent lands. On the basis of an environmental assessment, any projects, activities, or plans may be cancelled, modified to mitigate impacts, or proceed as described. Cumulative impacts will also be assessed to determine whether these activities, when considered together, affect the environment in a negative or positive manner.

Initiatives

The Federal Environmental Assessment Process for Policy and Program Proposals will continue to be used to minimize the incremental degradation and destruction of the natural ecosystem.

Sensitive habitats, species, and land forms will be protected through Zone 1 and Zone 2 application or by designation as Environmentally Sensitive Sites. Other lands within the Park will be assessed to determine their environmental and social carrying capacities.

The Park will continue to monitor the effects of visitor use and Park operations on the natural resources and will rehabilitate or restore areas in keeping with the capability of the sites and the quality of the visitor experience.

Parks Canada's accumulated experience and expertise in managing Park facilities and user impacts will be available to local communities and public agencies. Parks Canada will provide advice on appropriate scales and types of visitor use and activities, as well as on their environmental impacts and how these can be reduced.

3.4.5.2 *Law Enforcement*

Maintaining the public peace has become a sizable, serious, and complex task requiring clear direction through national and Park directives. The Park Law Enforcement Program has both pro-active prevention and public education components. The Park Warden Service protects the Park's natural resources from human use and inappropriate visitor behaviour through enforcement of the National Parks Act and other related federal and provincial legislation.

Visitors often do not understand or, in some cases, disregard the effect of their actions on sensitive resources. This behaviour can be prevented or curtailed through a program that informs and educates Park visitors. This type of program is a necessity because Park staff are not always present.

The Warden Service at the Park has developed an excellent working relationship with other law enforcement agencies, including the Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources Commercial Fisheries Enforcement Unit, local Conservation Officers, the Conservation and Protection branch of the Canadian Wildlife Service, and Inland Waters Directorate (Environment Canada).

Initiatives

Programs that inform and educate visitors will help Parks Canada continue to protect the Park's natural resources.

Law enforcement efforts should be pro-active and be based on the protection of the integrity of the Park's ecosystem. This goal will be achieved through an alliance of law enforcement and science.

All efforts should be made to provide the Park with the protection of the National Parks Act and regulations through the status of "National Parks Reserve" in order to fulfil this mandate effectively.

Partnerships with other law enforcement agencies should continue to be encouraged and pursued.

Department of Canadian Heritage
Parks Canada

4.0 THE CULTURAL ENVIRONMENT

4.1 The Current Situation

Parks Canada is committed to the protection and preservation of cultural resources, both archaeological and historic, in national parks. The Cultural Resource Management Policy provides a framework for the identification, assessment of significance, protection, use, and monitoring of cultural resources under Parks Canada's jurisdiction. The Park will also adhere to the requirements of the Federal Environmental Assessment Process for Policy and Program Proposals and the Federal Heritage Buildings Review Policy to ensure that valuable cultural assets are protected.

The most important cultural resources in the Park that are in need of protection are the archaeological sites from pre-European contact and the significant pieces of evidence of European land uses and settlement. Examples of early occupation (circa A.D. 1000) are best represented by the Pukaskwa Pits, found on the cobble beaches of the Superior shoreline. In the post-European contact period, this area did not experience any significant activities or events. Nineteenth-century exploration and subsequent settlement activities by-passed the area and, as a result, the Park landscape has been relatively unaltered. A feature of special note is The Depot, a small lumbering community located near the mouth of the Pukaskwa River.

In 1984, a Cultural Resource Management Plan was completed, which establishes a framework for the identification and evaluation of significant cultural resources and provides guidelines for their protection. The Plan's objectives are to protect and manage all cultural resources, provide for interpretation, and direct future research.

Four kinds of cultural resources were identified in the Park: sub-surface archaeological sites, surface archaeological sites, historic structures and features, and underwater shipwrecks. Since the 1984 plan was completed, additional information has been gathered. Some protection and monitoring of some resources based on their level of significance have occurred since 1984. The existing plan is due for a review to incorporate new information and evaluate its effectiveness.

4.2 Our Vision for the Future

The Park's cultural resources will continue to be highly valued, respected, protected, and preserved. An increased involvement with the RSTG will be sought in identifying, interpreting, and protecting the Park's cultural resources. Assessing the local and cumulative impact of all development and recreational activities will be standard practice. All site deterioration will be minimized and improvements will be noticeable.

The Cultural Resource Management plan will continue to provide strategies for preservation and use of the Park's cultural resources, which form part of the cultural landscape of the region. The need to work with our partners to protect the cultural landscape of the region will continue. Uses that might have an impact on the Park's cultural resources will only be permitted where protection of the resource can be guaranteed. Visitors' understanding of these resources will be enhanced through exploration of human history themes presented through the Park's public

education program. The regional context of cultural resources will be presented in co-operation with the RSTG, government agencies, and other interested groups. Parks Canada will share expertise and technical advice with cultural resource management partners in the region.

4.3 *Initiatives*

The 1984 Cultural Resource Management Plan will be reviewed and revised if necessary. The revised Plan will confirm site significance and formally identify the means and procedures whereby the Park's cultural resources will be protected. The Plan will establish monitoring programs to review the effects of site visitation and natural erosion, the impact of rehabilitation efforts for disturbed sites on archaeological resources, and requirements for further research. Interpretation, either on- or off-site, will be emphasized in the Cultural Resource Management Program.

Past human occupation and use of the land within the Park's boundaries will continue to be investigated and translated through the protection of cultural landscapes. Future studies on particular historic themes may be identified and undertaken as a result of the development of interpretive themes.

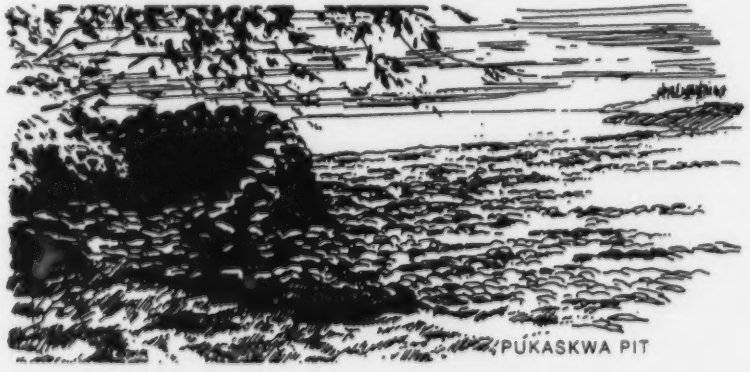
Archaeological sites of high significance will be afforded the greatest level of management and protection by prohibiting new Park development, actively discouraging visitor use, and, wherever necessary, phasing out or relocating current incompatible uses. Sites of high significance will be protected as Zone 1 areas and, to aid in their protection, information on the location of these sites will not be available to the general public. Any uses that threaten the condition or integrity of the resource will be closely scrutinized before being allowed. Interpretation will occur off-site.

Archaeological sites of medium significance will be afforded an appropriate level of management and protection under ESS zoning. Limited development or use may be permitted. Interpretation will occur off-site.

Development and use of sites that are of low significance may be permitted following an impact assessment. This includes any mitigating measures to be implemented.

Parks Canada will continue to protect the Park's cultural resources from impacts caused by human use. This will be accomplished through programs that inform and educate visitors and through law enforcement.

Parks Canada will encourage increased involvement by the Robinson-Superior Treaty Group in identifying, interpreting, and protecting the Park's cultural resources.



PÚKASKWA PIT

5.0 PUBLIC OPPPORTUNITIES

5.1 Introduction

This section describes the strategic direction for communicating Parks Canada and Pukaskwa's role and mandate, and providing the opportunity for community involvement.

Pukaskwa National Park is only one part of a larger region on the north shore of Lake Superior, which encompasses different ecosystems, towns, provincial parks, crown land, and so on. If the Park is to remain a wilderness area, restrictions on activities and access to certain areas must be imposed. Yet access and the opportunity for enjoyable experiences are part of the mandate and contribute to the protection in future of this and other natural environments.

5.2 The Current Situation

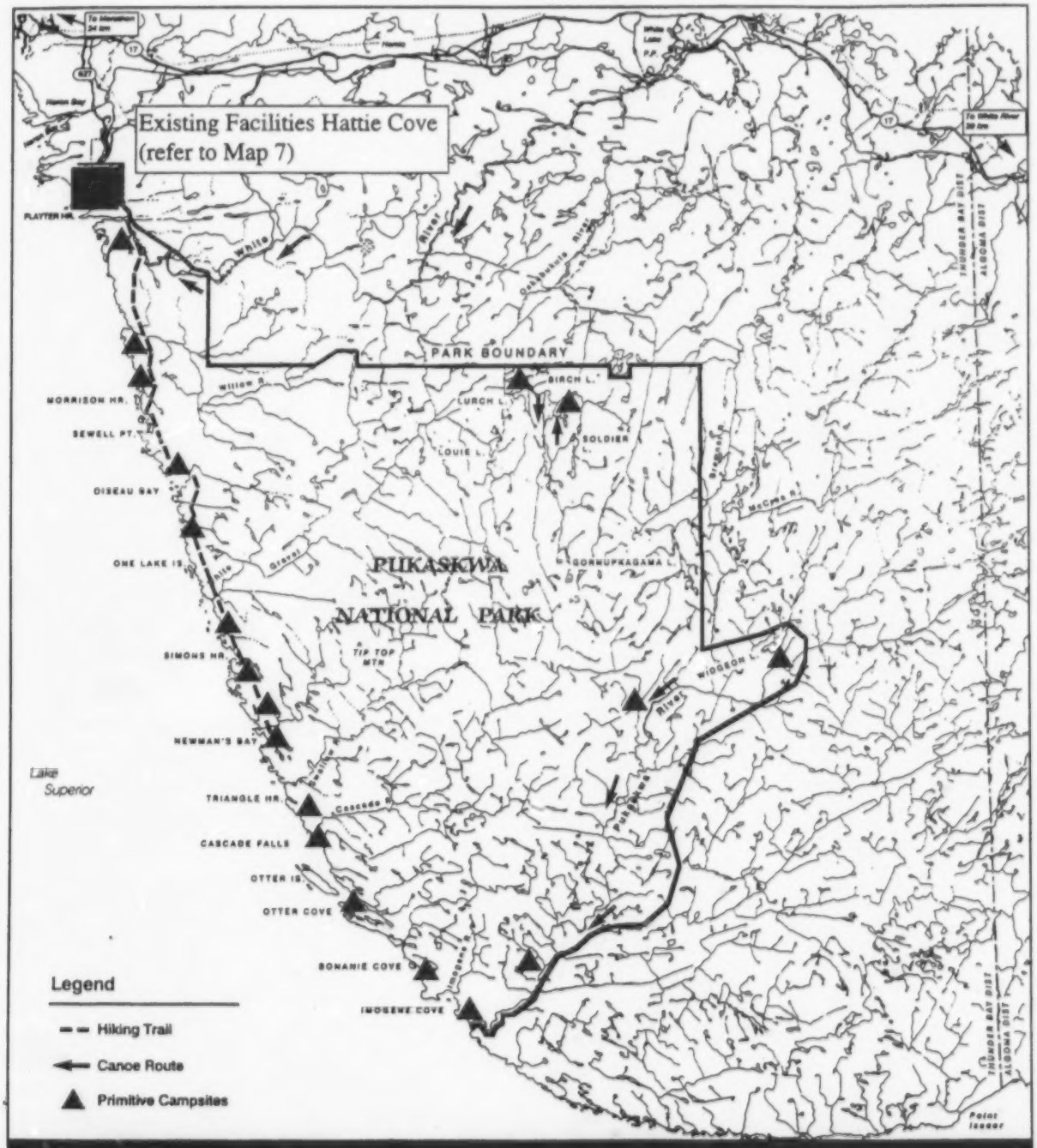
Pukaskwa National Park is one of a series of public areas in the Lake Superior basin that provide an opportunity for a wilderness experience. The Park is the only national wilderness park in Ontario. Appropriate use of the Park is encouraged in order to promote protection and build a constituency of heritage advocates. However, protection remains the primary mandate.

The majority of the Park (99%) is managed as a wilderness area, known as the back country. The area is predominantly characterized by an unmodified natural environment where visitors can employ their wilderness skills. Facilities provided are minimal and emphasize resource protection. They are provided in the Coastal Corridor, along the Coastal Hiking Trail from Hattie Cove to the North Swallow River, and along the Pukaskwa and White Rivers.

The remaining one per cent of the Park is managed as "the edge of wilderness" or front country. This area is known as Hattie Cove; it serves both as front country and as the major reception area of the Park. Here visitors can experience the Park's wilderness character under relatively safe and structured conditions. The facilities and services offer opportunities for camping, hiking, picnicking, or partaking in a variety of interpretive programs. The Administrative Compound is also located at Hattie Cove. The Friends of Pukaskwa maintain a sales outlet and administrative area in the Visitor Centre and at the Administrative Building.

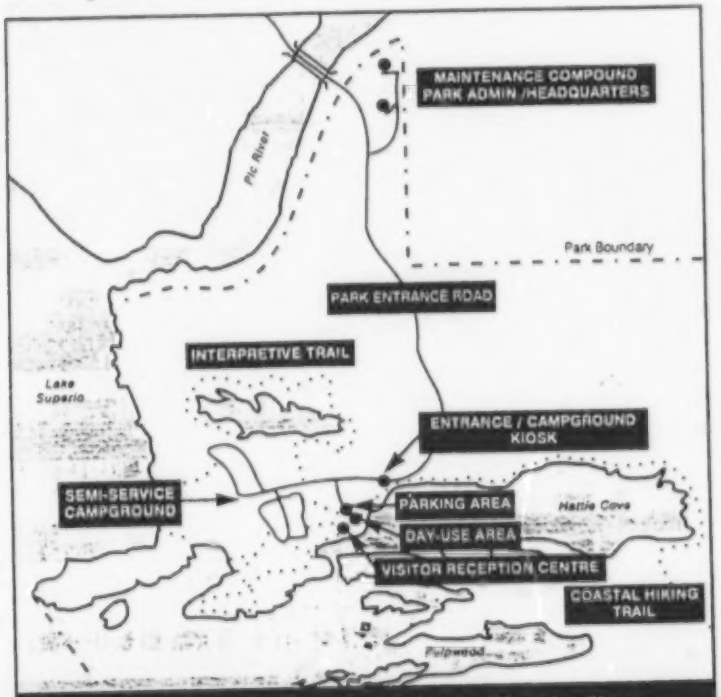
The Park is open year-round.It is fully operational from mid-June to Labour Day weekend. The campground at Hattie Cove is accessible and partially operational during the snow-free shoulder seasons. In winter, Hattie Cove is managed as back country. Access is only possible by cross-country skiing or snow-shoeing. Winter camping is permitted.

The Park can be reached by road via Highway 627, just off the Trans-Canada Highway (17), approximately 300 km east of Thunder Bay and 400 km west of Sault Ste. Marie. The Park is also accessible by water, via boat, canoe, or kayak. Launching in the Park is possible only for canoes and kayaks. There are no docking or launching facilities for motorboats within the Park. (The nearest launching points are at Peninsula Harbour and at an informal area near the mouth of the Pic River.)



Map 6: Existing Facilities / Backcountry

Most visitors come from Ontario (largely from the Toronto area), the United States (mostly Michigan and Minnesota), and the local area. Visitation to Pukaskwa between 1991-1994 totalled 35,000 to 40,000 person-visit-days per year. On average, 84% of visitors remain in the front-country area. The remaining 16% venture out into the back country. Pukaskwa is more a destination park than the other provincial or private parks in the region.



Map 7: Existing Facilities/Hattie Cove

"Wild Shore of an Inland Sea" is the theme of Pukaskwa National Park. It is designed to capture the essence of this land and help visitors appreciate the forces that have shaped and continue to shape it. It also defines the role of Parks Canada in preserving and managing our heritage in this part of the Lake Superior basin. The theme is subdivided into six messages:

The Land
The Boreal Environment
The Lake
Human Heritage
Wilderness
Heritage Preservation

Hattie Cove is the primary site for interpretation, where all themes and messages are presented using a variety of interpretive methods, both personal and non-personal. Interpretation in the back country is by means of non-personal and unobtrusive materials such as publications.

The Coastal Corridor allows good representation of the Lake, Human Heritage, Wilderness, and Heritage Preservation messages. The interior lends itself to the Land, Boreal Environment, Wilderness, and Heritage Preservation messages.

5.3 Our Vision for the Future

The Park will continue to provide one of the most accessible wilderness areas for the regional market as well as southern Ontario and the U.S. mid-west. The front country (Hattie Cove) will continue to be managed as "the edge of wilderness" and facilities will continue to be concentrated there. The back country will continue to provide a range of appropriate wilderness opportunities that require a minimum of man-made facilities, emphasize resource protection, focus on the visitor's self-reliance, and appeal to visitors with a range of wilderness skill levels.

Not all visitor needs or expectations will be met. Park programs, facilities, and services will be directed towards specific groups of visitors, with an emphasis on four high-priority groups: Back-country Wilderness Adventurers, Day Users, Campers, and Organized Educational Groups.

The Park will be managed, not in isolation, but as a key player in resource protection of the Greater Pukaskwa Ecosytem and in regional tourism. The Park's educational activities will foster environmental citizenship within the education community and among targeted visitor groups and stakeholders in the Greater Pukaskwa Area.

Protecting the "Wild Shore of an Inland Sea" will be the core of all messages. This will be done not only through various interpretive programs, but also by examples of actions taken in the Park that can be also be taken by visitors, agencies, organizations, and stakeholders outside Park boundaries.

Communication amongst Lake Superior Basin stakeholders and the Park will be enhanced. An understanding of individual stakeholders' goals, objectives, and visions will be achieved. The Park will continue to support the Friends of Pukaskwa.

The spiritual beliefs and traditional cultural values of the Ojibway people closest to the Park will be actively presented and protected through cultural interpretation, increased understanding of their beliefs about the relationship between the land and water of the region, and honouring the significance of such cultural resources as the Pukaskwa Pits.

The Visitor Risk Management Program and the provision of search-and-rescue services will be based on a thorough hazard assessment and public safety plan. The program will be managed in a manner that ensures that the integrity of the Park's heritage resources is maintained, while at the same time sustaining the highest-quality opportunities for visitor understanding, appreciation, and enjoyment. The Park will provide an effective public education program about Park hazards. The prevention component of this program will be enhanced through a visitor education program.

All Park staff will feel a sense of pride and satisfaction in fulfilling Parks Canada's mandate through their management of the Park's resources and visitors. This sense of pride, when perceived by visitors, will encourage the stewardship of our natural heritage.

5.4 Target Groups and Stakeholders

Target Groups

After careful review of the market study of the visitor base, the desired objectives, the vision statement for Pukaskwa, and the operating principles dictated by our mandate, four major Visitor Activities Groups have been identified. These groups partake in acceptable activities and seek unique opportunities for learning, appreciating, and experiencing the "Wild Shore of an Inland Sea."

Back-country Wilderness Adventurers: This group seeks a wilderness experience with little or no signs of human activity or contact. They wish to challenge their wilderness survival skills. The activities they partake in are backpacking, canoeing, kayaking, and boating. The majority use the Coastal Corridor from Hattie Cove to North Swallow River.

Day Users: This group spends short periods of time in the Park. They wish to experience the Park in a controlled and natural setting. They partake in activities such as hiking an interpretive trail, attending an interpretive program, visiting Horseshoe Beach, and/or picnicking. The majority of their time is spent in the Hattie Cove area.

Campers: This group is composed of en-route, destination, or local travellers. They use a variety of equipment from tents to motor-homes. They seek a semi-wilderness experience in a controlled setting. They use the facilities provided at Hattie Cove, with a few venturing part of the way along the Coastal Hiking Trail to White River.

Organized Educational Groups: These groups seek specific information and services in order to increase their knowledge of the natural and cultural heritage and to develop skills. They can be subdivided into a variety of formal educational groups, from schools to clubs such as Scouts and Brownies. They are served both within and outside the Park.

5.5 Presentation Approach

The Public Opportunities section, whose primary roles are information and communication, will strive to expose all visitors and stakeholders to the following messages:

- Parks Canada's mandate and policies
- the role of Pukaskwa as part of a national park system and as a wilderness area in need of protection
- information needed to plan and enjoy a visit to Pukaskwa National Park, including travel information, facilities available, skill level needed for back-country tripping, programs available, public safety concerns (especially important for day users, campers, and back-country users)
- activities appropriate to and possible in the Park so as to leave it unimpaired; realization of the limitations imposed because of protection needs (especially important for back-country users, day-users, and campstakeers)
- all themes and messages through a variety of interpretive methods, both personal and non-personal
- opportunities to become advocates on issues affecting the natural environment directly or indirectly through involvement inside or outside the Park
- an appreciation of the impact of activities outside the Park's boundary on the Park's environment in order to minimize them (especially important for local residents and stakeholders in the surrounding area).

Reaching Park Visitors

Visitors to the Park will have received sufficient information to have a safe and enjoyable visit. The information will have been relayed directly to them after initial contact with the Park, or indirectly through various tourist organization and publications. Visitors will be aware of the opportunities available to them for experiencing the Park and the surrounding area, along with the variety of support services and facilities available.

Reaching the Surrounding Community (Extension Program)

Parks Canada will strive to facilitate environmental stewardship and increase environmental advocacy in the region by increasing stakeholders' awareness of the Park and its role within both the national parks system and the Lake Superior basin.

But stakeholders have different needs and objectives. An understanding of these needs and objectives can be achieved through a communications strategy developed in co-operation with stakeholders and all sections and staff at the Park.

Networking with organizations in the surrounding area will be encouraged. Sections better able to communicate with particular organizations will be encouraged to do so. Other means such as stewardship programs and co-operative work with groups having similar vested interests must also be employed to influence stakeholders.

5.6 Visitor Experience Opportunity Areas

This framework describes four opportunity areas (refer to Map 8). Each offers the distinct mixture of natural settings, support services, facilities, programs, and messages needed to respond to each of the four visitor groups identified. These opportunity areas are compatible with the Park's mandate. The Visitor Experience Opportunity Areas in Pukaskwa are identified as:

Front-Country Opportunity

Back-Country Opportunity
Semi-primitive areas
Primitive Areas
Wildlands

5.6.1 Front-Country Opportunity Area

Intended Experience

The front-country area will serve as the major reception area of the Park. As "the edge of wilderness," it will allow visitors to experience the Park's wilderness character under structured conditions. Visitors will be provided with:

- equal opportunities for visitor contact and for isolation from human sights and sounds
- a high degree of interaction with the natural environment
- some challenge or risk, though this will be minimized through appropriate management actions.

Location

Hattie Cove Area

Target Visitor Groups

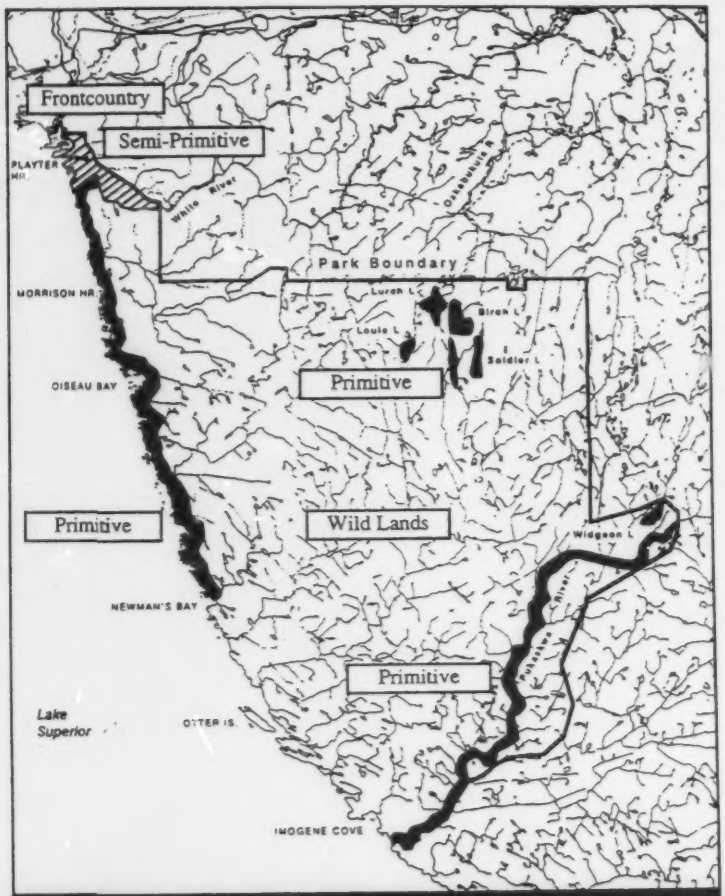
Day Users
Campers
Organized Educational Groups
Back-country Wilderness Adventurers
(initial orientation to Park)

Interpretation and Messages

As the main Park entry point, visitors will be oriented to Canadian Heritage, Parks Canada's mandate, the Park's natural and cultural heritage features, its theme and six major messages, the recreational opportunities available including services, facilities, and programs, and Park regulations including public safety concerns and requirements.

The Hattie Cove area will be the primary interpretive site for the Park. Pukaskwa's theme and six major messages will be presented to all visitors generally, and to the Hattie Cove campers and day users specifically, through a full range of interpretive media including the Visitor Reception Centre, self-guiding trails, personal

programming, and full support of the initiative of the Friends of Pukaskwa co-operating association. Back-country visitors will be oriented to the Park's natural and cultural heritage and the related resource protection requirements, the range of recreational opportunities available including facilities, services, and programs, and regulations including public safety and the registration system.



Map 8: Visitor Experience Opportunity Areas

Facilities

The following facilities are compatible with the intended experience of a front-country management area:

- entrance road and kiosk
- parking facilities
- visitor reception centre
- day-use facilities
- serviced campground
- semi-serviced campground
- group campground
- interpretive and access trails

Services and facilities provided in the Hattie Cove area are designed to:

- maximize protection of the natural and cultural resources
- enhance the appropriate recreational activities to accommodate the various skill levels and interests of Park visitors
- maximize exposure to natural and cultural themes and messages
- allow convenient access to facilities and activities for all visitors, including physically disabled users
- be unobtrusive, corresponding to anticipated levels of use.

Activities

The Hattie Cove area will continue to provide a range of appropriate year-round recreational activities for diverse user types and experience levels. Major activities considered appropriate in the Hattie Cove area include:

- camping (year-round)
- day hiking
- interpretation programs/special events
- canoeing/kayaking
- picnicking
- sport fishing
- cross-country skiing
- snowshoeing

- group tenting
- sightseeing
- nature observation
- art activities
- development of basic wilderness skills compatible with preservation.

5.6.2 Back-Country Opportunity Area

The back-country is considered to be those areas of the Park predominantly characterized by an unmodified natural environment and accessible only by non-motorized means. Three types of back-country activities have been identified: semi-primitive, primitive, and wildlands. Opportunities range from areas with easy access, moderate visitation levels, and some structured facilities to areas with little or no use that are essentially free from human intrusion.

Intended Experience

The back-country will provide a range of opportunities in a wilderness setting to accommodate the users' skill levels while maximizing protection and exposure to the wilderness environment and its natural and cultural resources.

Appropriate back-country activities will offer the visitors the following attributes:

- a sense of adventure
- an element of challenge
- a feeling of self-reliance
- freedom of choice (within the constraints of necessary controls and regulations)
- a degree of solitude
- a sense of discovery
- direct exposure to key Park themes.

Target Groups

- Back-country Wilderness Adventurers
- Day Users
- Campers

Interpretation and Messages:

Back-country users will be exposed to the Park theme, "Wild Shore of an Inland Sea," and its six accompanying messages, to Parks Canada's mandate and policies, to Park rules and regulations, and especially to information pertaining to public safety and the level of skill and experience needed to venture into the back-country.

Interpretation and information in the back-country will be delivered unobtrusively. Preference will be given to publications and occasional staff contact. The emphasis will be on the concept of wilderness, the Park's themes and stories, and the appropriate level of restriction and regimentation necessary for visitor safety in the back-country.

Facilities

Facilities in the back-country will be designed to:

- protect the environment while providing only basic comfort and convenience
- maximize exposure to key Park themes
- meet the basic requirements and needs of specific user groups
- complement the natural and cultural aesthetics so as to be unobtrusive.

Semi-Primitive Opportunity Areas

Intended Experience

A semi-primitive area will offer visitors the opportunity to experience:

- a moderate probability of isolation from human sights and sounds
- a feeling of closeness to nature, tranquillity, and self-reliance, whether by canoeing, boating, or hiking.

Location

- the Coastal Corridor from Hattie Cove to White River
- White River Corridor

Target Group

- Back-country Wilderness Adventurers
- Day Users
- Campers

Interpretation and Messages

The Park's theme, "Wild Shore of an Inland Sea," permeates the Coastal Corridor and should be the basis for interpreting all six messages. The approach will be through non-personal techniques as deemed appropriate in the service plan. Media may include pamphlets, hiking and canoeing guide books, on-site exhibits, and occasional staff encounters.

Information programs will encourage awareness and understanding of the Park's natural and cultural resources and their protection requirements, proper behaviour in a wilderness area and shoulder-season use.

Facilities

Protecting natural resources is of utmost concern when designing facilities for semi-primitive areas. At the same time, it must be recognized that the area receives a moderate level of traffic and therefore public safety concerns must also be addressed. While being as unobtrusive as possible, facilities must be designed to make the visitors feel safe.

The following facilities are compatible with the intended experience of a semi-primitive area:

- bridges, steps, and boardwalks at appropriate areas and standards to accommodate volume of traffic along the Coastal Hiking Trail
- directional signage
- back-country registration/de-registration station
- on-site exhibits
- camping sites at White River
- portage routes for canoeists

Activities

This section of the Coastal Corridor will provide a range of appropriate back-country activities for diverse user types and experience levels. These include:

- backpacking (including camping all year)
- canoeing/kayaking
- day hiking
- motorboating/sailing along the coast
- sport fishing
- coastal tours (water taxi services)
- snowshoeing
- cross-country skiing
- sightseeing
- nature observation
- art activities
- development of wilderness skills compatible with preservation.

This section of the Coastal Hiking Trail has become a popular day-hiking trail. There are problems with congestion during the peak season. This causes conflict in particular with the wilderness-seeking user group. A back-country service plan will be developed to improve the management of this area without losing the integrity of the natural environment and the wilderness experience. The plan will address the use of soft and hard management options, such as imposing a quota system on the number and size of parties that may venture down the trail and/or building a loop trail.

Primitive Opportunity Areas

Intended Experience

Primitive areas will offer visitors the opportunity to experience:

- a high probability of isolation from other users
- independence, closeness to nature, tranquillity, and self-reliance.

Locations

- the Coastal Corridor from White River to Pukaskwa River
- Lurch-Birch-Louis Lakes complex
- Widgeon Lake

Target Visitor Groups

- Back-country Wilderness Adventurers

Interpretation and Messages

Along the Coastal Hiking Trail Corridor, the "Wild Shore of an Inland Sea" will be emphasized. The area is conducive to the introduction of all six messages. On the Pukaskwa River, the Pukaskwa Plains sub-theme "From Ice to Sea" can be introduced through the following stories: Glaciation, Boreal Forest/St. Lawrence Lowlands, Logging, and Wilderness Preservation.

Messages will also emphasize preservation of the natural environment, activities conducive to preservation (e.g., no-trace camping), and the need for visitors to be experienced and self-reliant in a wilderness setting.

Messages and information will be delivered by means of non-personal media, particularly publications. Hiking and canoeing guides will be provided through the Friends of Pukaskwa. Updating the guides regularly will ensure that they are accurate and their messages are relevant. The guides will provide both interpretive and safety messages about the areas concerned.

Facilities

Facilities in these areas will be kept to a minimum to maintain the wilderness experience, in which a minimum of human intrusion and impact is perceived. Facilities will be provided only where deemed necessary and be as unobtrusive as possible along the Coastal Hiking Trail from White River to North Swallow. The remaining section of the Trail and areas along the Pukaskwa River corridor will have designated campsites with fire pits only. There will be designated camping sites at the Lurch-Birch-Louis Lakes complex and at Widgeon Lake.

Activities

The Park will provide opportunities for visitors to participate in appropriate activities. Visitors will be cautioned that a certain degree of skill and experience is needed in order to enjoy the primitive areas fully. Visitors will have to be self-reliant and already have some knowledge of wilderness skills.

Appropriate activities include:

- backpacking (including year-round camping)
- canoeing/kayaking
- motorboating/sailing along the coast
- snowshoeing
- sport fishing
- coastal tours
- nature observation
- cross country skiing
- art activities
- development of wilderness skills compatible with preservation.

Wildlands

Intended Experience

Wildlands are areas where little or no use will be encouraged. They can provide visitors with an opportunity for year-round solitude. Resource protection will be the highest priority. Self-reliance and a high degree of wilderness experience will be stressed before visitors can venture in these areas. Those who wish to venture into the wildlands will have an opportunity for:

- year-round solitude
- independence, tranquillity, closeness to nature
- a high degree of challenge and risk.

Locations

- Interior

Target Visitor Groups

- Back-country Wilderness Users

Interpretation and Messages

The interpretation program will be designed to promote a high degree of individual responsibility, integrity and commitment to maintaining the quality of the environment. It will focus on wilderness sensitization, the land, the boreal environment, and preservation. The Program will also stress visitors' self-reliance and the high level of wilderness skills needed to venture out into the wildlands. This information will be disseminated through non-personal means such as publications and through a variety of media at the Hattie Cove Visitor Centre.

Facilities

No facilities will be provided in the wildlands areas of the Park in order to ensure its preservation.

The access route to Tip Top Mountain and Cascade River Valley will be identified in order to minimize intrusions into the natural environment. Random camping will be permitted under strict guidelines. Use will be restricted in some areas to protect resources.

Activities

The following activities are considered appropriate for some of the wildlands areas:

- backpacking
- snowshoeing
- cross-country skiing
- sport fishing
- canoeing/kayaking
- nature observation
- art activities
- development of wilderness skills compatible with preservation.

5.7 Public Involvement

Public involvement in Park matters occurs through annual meetings and tours, distribution of literature, displays at local events, press releases, public consultation programs and co-operative activities. The Park holds ongoing consultations on various initiatives in order to receive feedback from specific groups. These consultations provide opportunities for concerned individuals and groups to understand and contribute to the development of Park plans and operations.

Initiatives

The Park will encourage public involvement in the protection and wise use of its natural and cultural heritage resources through means that promote public education, two-way communication, and feedback to Park managers.

5.8 Visitor Safety

5.8.1 Visitor Risk Management

Current Situation

The purpose of a Visitor Risk Management Program is to ensure minimal risk both to the user and to the natural, cultural, and infrastructural elements of the Park. Parks Canada places an emphasis on pro-active measures in the management of hazards and the reduction of risk. Parks Canada also expects visitors to exhibit a degree of self-reliance and responsibility for their own safety commensurate with the degree of difficulty and risk involved in the activities they undertake.

Responsibility for visitors' safety will be shared by all Park staff. The Park's search-and-rescue program ensures that staff are equipped, trained, and available to react to emergency situations. The Park has the capability to carry out both marine and land searches. Assistance is provided to the Canadian Coast Guard, depending on the ability of Park personnel and boats to assist and the proximity of an incident to the Park. Parks Canada also complies with its responsibility to the public and other agencies by ensuring that the Warden Service is capable of assisting in public safety operations outside the Park, as requested. The Park's ongoing training program and equipment maintenance program ensure that staff are in a state of readiness for public safety operations at all times.

Initiatives

Through the search-and-rescue program, the Park will continue to respond to visitors in distress. The Park will co-operate with other agencies and departments in developing and delivering pro-active and reactive safety measures.

5.8.2 Personal Safety

Law enforcement associated with criminal activities is beyond the resource protection mandate of Parks Canada. Serious Criminal Code matters are normally administered by larger police forces, such as the RCMP and the Ontario Provincial Police. The Park's Warden Service is involved in these matters only if there is an occurrence on Park lands. Involvement of the Warden Service is restricted to first response, to securing the crime scene, and to minimizing subsequent risk to members of the public and Park staff until such time as matters can be turned over to the appropriate law enforcement agency.

Initiatives

The Park will maintain sufficient capability and training of its staff to ensure their own safety and that of the public with respect to criminal matters.

5.9 Support Facilities

Support facilities are those required for the operation and administration of the Park. Although these facilities are generally not as visible to the public as other Park facilities such as campgrounds and day-use areas, they are an integral part of the Park infrastructure.

At present, both administrative and maintenance functions are performed from the Park administrative building in the Hattie Cove area. Other Park facilities of note are seasonal staff accommodation at Hattie Cove and the temporary marine operation, which runs out of three locations: Pic River, Hattie Cove, and Pulpwood Harbour. There are Warden stations on Willow Lake, Widgeon Lake, Cabin Lake, and Otter Cove. Permanent staff housing is available in Marathon.

Because of the inaccessibility of the back country, the location of significant resources in need of management along the coast, and the increasing popularity of the shoreline among visitors, an efficient and effective coastal operations base is essential.

Initiatives

Essential support facilities will be retained within the Hattie Cove area.

The current temporary marine operation will continue to run out of three locations: Pic River, Hattie Cove, and Pulpwood Harbour. The selection of a final location for an operations base in the Hattie Cove area depends on the completion of an environmental impact review. The site selected will minimize environmental damage and reduce long-term costs.

Summer seasonal staff accommodation will remain in the current Hattie Cove location. Future decisions on retaining permanent staff housing will be made based on criteria approved by Parks Canada.

6.0 LAND MANAGEMENT

6.1 Introduction

An essential component of achieving the goal of protecting the Park within the Lake Superior basin is a creative approach to land-use planning. Parks Canada will promote and use the following land-use mechanisms: land stewardship, and land-use planning and regulatory controls. This will help Parks Canada and its partners fulfil the vision for the area.

6.2 Land Stewardship

Stewardship suggests a concern for future generations and an ethical responsibility for the environment, including the human community. Land stewardship should not be considered in isolation, but as a component of a system that promotes conservation of private and public land. The range of land stewardship options increases in complexity from information and education to leases to land trusts and designations.

The urgency of using land stewardship options to protect the Lake Superior basin is being driven by the following factors: increasing development pressures in the area, the limitations of other land-use tools (e.g., land-use planning) to protect resources, the emphasis on the ecosystem approach, and the effectiveness of the land stewardship option in other jurisdictions.

Initiatives

Parks Canada will co-operate and co-ordinate with other partners in the Lake Superior basin to deliver an integrated land stewardship program.

Parks Canada will continue to work with others in conducting studies and inventories to identify critical areas that should be protected.

6.3 Land-Use Planning and Regulatory Controls

Increased participation by Parks Canada in land-use planning programs reflects a better understanding by Parks Canada of the important role these programs have in directing the future environment of the Lake Superior area.

Initiatives

Identification in official land-use planning documents (e.g., official plans, timber management plans) of the Pukaskwa National Park Management Plan as the official policy of Parks Canada for the protection and management of Pukaskwa National Park and as a strategic plan for co-operative actions.

Recognition of Parks Canada as a review agency for planning and land development activities adjacent to Park lands.

Co-operation with townships and other private and public interests to identify areas possessing outstanding natural, historic, or scenic values, and to support the protection of these areas through appropriate policies and land stewardship programs.

7.0 COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT

7.1 Introduction

Pukaskwa National Park is only one of a range of protected areas set aside by Canadians and U.S. partners in the Lake Superior basin. Since the Park reflects only a portion of the landscape mosaic of the basin, it is vitally important that the Park be managed in a regional context. Similarly, as a key regional tourism generator, the Park cannot be managed in isolation from its neighbours (refer to Map 9).

The prominence of resource extraction land-use practices surrounding the Park makes community involvement initiatives both challenging and essential. Considerable effort has been devoted to fostering good relations between the Park and local industries, local and regional tourism agencies, and regional residents. New efforts will be devoted to addressing resource management concerns in co-operation with other land management agencies and organizations concerned with protecting the Lake Superior basin. Continued emphasis will be placed on co-ordinating tourism planning and promotion, as outlined here and in other sections of this Plan.

Parks Canada is committed to enhancing community involvement initiatives over the life of this Management Plan. In order to be successful, however, the various community interests, including Parks Canada, must be working towards a common goal. Parks Canada believes that the principles of sustainable development can provide a common framework for meeting long-term regional and national needs, as well as protecting the ecological integrity of the Park. There must be wider recognition and understanding of the need to achieve regional development in a manner that protects and enhances opportunities for future generations. Pukaskwa can serve as a model of sustainable development and use, provide a benchmark against which the effects of developments outside the Park can be measured, and play an important role as an educator and an advocate for environmental stewardship.

Stakeholders in the Region Surrounding the Park: The Park is part of a large and varied community composed of many stakeholders (organizations) having different interests and objectives, from tourism to resource extraction.

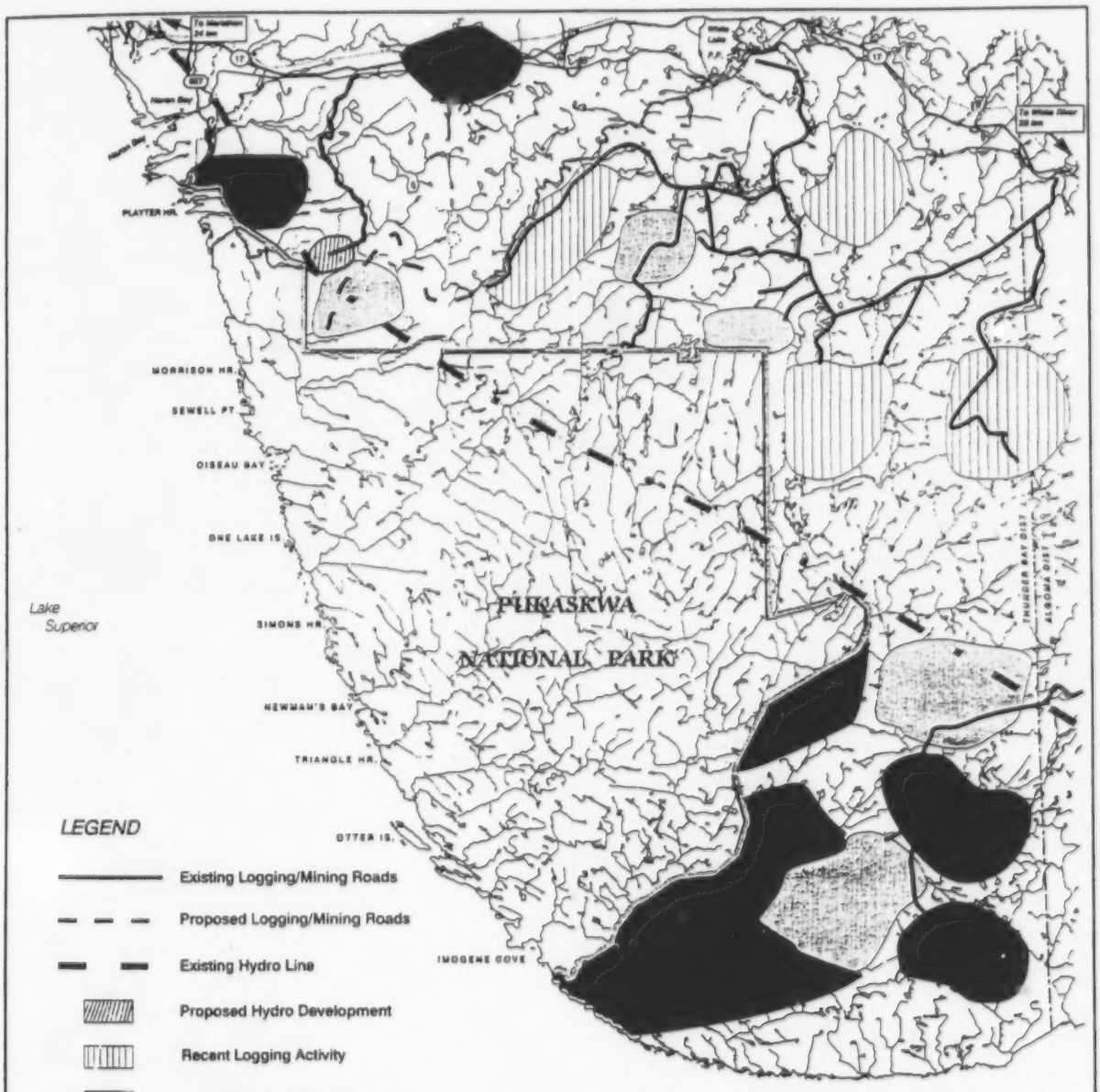
Aboriginal Groups: This group has a special interest in Pukaskwa through the Robinson-Superior Treaty. The Park is a source of traditional use, employment, and training for members of the RSTG and honouring their beliefs and knowledge.

Tourism Stakeholders: This group of organizations and businesses provides services to visitors to the region north of Lake Superior. They include Chambers of Commerce, wilderness outfitters, providers of food, accommodation, and transportation, and so on.

Resource-Based Stakeholders: These are businesses and agencies that profit from using the natural resources of the region. They are involved in mining, forestry, energy production, and development.

Management Agencies: These are the provincial and federal government agencies involved in the management of various aspects of the region.

Stakeholders Involved in Park Management: These are the people and organizations who provide services to the Park, such as research, law enforcement, public safety, supplies, etc.



Map 9: Adjacent Land use

7.2 Initiatives

Initiatives relating to community involvement are found throughout the management plan. This section provides a summary of Parks Canada's intentions.

Parks Canada will promote and enhance regional resource protection and management through a number of initiatives. These include:

- *continued support for the creation of a Regional Management Committee concerned with the ecosystem north of Lake Superior and its relationship to the Lake Superior and Great Lakes basins*
- *continued support for co-operative research projects involving international, national, provincial, and regional resource management agencies, and non-governmental agencies*
- *enhanced co-operation with other environmental and land management agencies within the region in order to seek integrated, co-operative solutions to regional and binational environmental issues at both management and technical levels.*

Parks Canada will promote and enhance community education and communications services through:

- *the distribution of co-ordinated regional trip-planning information*
- *an increased emphasis on outreach programs*
- *continued support for the Friends of Pukaskwa.*

Regional integration in tourism will be supported by:

- *clearly defining and explaining the Park's role, opportunities, limitation, and priority visitor groups*
- *actively participating in the development of regional tourism and marketing strategies*
- *participating in joint marketing initiatives where these are compatible with the Park's objectives*
- *participating in the distribution of co-ordinated regional trip-planning information.*

Parks Canada will plan and deliver a range of outdoor recreational opportunities appropriate to the Park's wilderness role and environment as part of a regional spectrum of recreational opportunities.

Parks Canada will support regional integration in land-use planning by:

- *participating in international, national, and regional land-use planning initiatives*
- *promoting sustainable development and compatible land uses on adjacent lands*
- *consulting with regional residents and land management agencies regarding Park planning, management, and operations.*

Parks Canada will continue to contribute to the regional economy by providing employment opportunities and serving as a key regional tourism generator.

As an advocate for and an example of sustainable development, Parks Canada will implement actions such as waste reduction and recycling, which further the achievement of sustainability.

8.0 ACHIEVING THE VISION: A STRATEGY FOR ACTION

The vision for Pukaskwa National Park within the Lake Superior basin provides a statement about where Parks Canada wants to be in 15 years. Throughout the Plan, we have pointed to the need for working with others. It is critical to our environment, our economy, and our well-being. Parks Canada does not have the dollars or resources to be all things to all people.

The direction of and initiatives in this Plan tie into the following areas in which Parks Canada wants to place more effort in the future: managing the ecosystem and the cultural resources, promoting an understanding of Canadian heritage, and promoting sustainable tourism and being a model of environmental stewardship. We will achieve these results by doing business more effectively and efficiently.

Parks Canada is exploring opportunities and establishing targets for revenue generation and shared management. Revenue generation will maximize revenue, helping to defray costs while respecting Parks Canada's values over the long term. We need to bring the costs associated with providing a service closer to the revenue. In some cases this will mean increasing user fees, looking at alternative ways of providing this service or discontinuing the service. Shared management will involve partners outside the parks system in the management, operation, and protection of Canada's natural and cultural resources. We will carry out our protection and commemoration responsibilities with a focus beyond our boundaries.

This Plan describes the future for Pukaskwa with more focus on protection and influencing others within the Lake Superior basin. The initiatives in the Plan portray a future for the Park that establishes Pukaskwa as a benchmark of ecological health and integrity for the Lake Superior basin, links Park activities with other experts, shifts the emphasis from focusing on Park property to influencing others in creating a sustainable future around the Park through an ecosystem management framework, continues to strengthen the relationship with First Nations towards a common vision for the Park, and focuses our educational program with partners on encouraging people to take responsibility for the long-term protection of this special part of Canada.

Building on the Management Plan's strategic direction, detailed actions for managing heritage resources, services, facilities, programs, Park lands, and Park users will follow. A three-year Business Plan will describe the kinds of initiatives needed to achieve the direction set out in the Management Plan. Ecosystem-based Conservation Plans, Cultural Resources Management Plans, Visitor Activity Plans, and Area Development Plans are examples of products to be produced. To the greatest extent possible, Parks Canada will enter into cost-sharing arrangements with private- and public-sector partners to undertake the necessary studies, plans, and projects.

In order to keep the Plan up to date, Park staff will do an annual review of the steps implemented, linking the progress made back to the Plan itself.

APPENDIX A

IMPORTANT TRENDS INFLUENCING PUKASKWA NATIONAL PARK

The following trends have been identified using a number of sources; many of them are common to Canada as a whole.

- Increasingly, parks are becoming isolated islands as a result of the rate and intensity of development outside their boundaries.
- The accidental and intentional introduction of non-native species into new territory may have significant impacts on native ecosystems.
- The development of new scientific disciplines such as conservation biology and restoration ecology will improve the quality of the resource management program for the Park and the region.
- The mobile "baby boom" population evaluates protected areas from the perspectives of national and international experiences.
- There is a growing level of environmental awareness among the general public. This is found most strongly in the "baby boom" generation.
- Many of the "baby boom" generation are having families and, as a result, there is a growing demand for family-oriented soft wilderness opportunities.
- The demand for natural environment activities such as walking, hiking, and boating is expected to grow during the 1990s.
- National and provincial economic trends are on the downturn.
- Families are taking more frequent vacations, but of shorter duration (three to four days) and closer to home.
- Pukaskwa is more a destination park than the other provincial or private parks in the region. Repeat visitation is higher than for provincial parks.
- Canada's population is aging slowly but steadily.
- Increasingly, the emphasis in the Great Lakes, especially the Lake Superior basin, is on ecosystem-based management (e.g., Lake Superior Binational Program).
- Core protected areas like Pukaskwa are increasingly recognized for their importance in ensuring the sustainability of the Great Lakes.

APPENDIX B

GUIDING PRINCIPLES FOR THE PUKASKWA NATIONAL PARK PLANNING PROGRAM

The mandate of Parks Canada with respect to national parks is to protect and present nationally significant natural and cultural features and processes. National parks must be managed so as to maintain their ecological integrity. Within this protection mandate, visitor use and enjoyment is encouraged. We will share our knowledge, experience, and advice in order to assist the public in making decisions about protecting our heritage.

Since everything is connected to everything else, an ecosystem approach will be adopted in all phases of Park management. An ecosystem approach has some key characteristics. It includes the whole system, not just parts of it; it focuses on inter-relationships among the elements; it recognizes that human beings are part of nature, not separate from it; it recognizes the dynamic nature of the ecosystem and its natural geographic basis.

The importance to society of protected natural areas such as Pukaskwa National Park is growing, as is the need to preserve representative plant and animal populations. Similarly, the protection of natural landscapes and significant cultural resources is becoming ever more critical. Pukaskwa National Park is a symbol of our Canadian identity because this site contributes to the physical beauty of Canada. It helps the public visually define and better understand what makes us unique and different.

Pukaskwa National Park can become a model of sustainability. Clearly defined limits to use and development are required to protect resources and maintain ecological integrity for future generations. As a green island surrounded by active resource-based land uses (forestry, mining, hydro development), Pukaskwa will require active resource and visitor management to ensure its future.

Pukaskwa National Park is part of a broad range of international, national, and regional agencies working to further the aims of environmental conservation. An integrated lake-basin outlook on environmental issues is essential for success in achieving the mandate of long-term heritage resource protection. Similarly, the Park is part of a network of agencies responsible for tourism in the area. Co-operation, consultation, and shared information are necessary so that the Park is viewed as a partner in sustainable regional tourism, as well as in conservation strategies. Parks Canada will encourage environmentally sustainable activities outside Park boundaries and will actively promote the principles of sustainable use for tourism.

Like all national parks, Pukaskwa must play an important educational role aimed at fostering a sense of environmental stewardship among Canadians and international visitors. To this end, the Park will become a model of stewardship by achieving its objectives for ecological integrity and visitor use, and by adopting environmentally responsible operating procedures.

The Park represents one of the best opportunities in Ontario for a wilderness experience. Parks Canada will continue to offer high-quality, satisfying park experiences to its visitors, as well as a range of outreach and educational services beyond the Park boundary.

Appropriate and creative techniques and accurate information will be used to assist in achieving the objectives for resource protection and visitor use. These will allow the Park to focus its efforts on the most relevant national park experiences and opportunities. The Park's educational and recreational programs, facilities, and services must be addressed to specific markets in order to achieve optimal use of scarce staff and financial resources, as well as to maintain the high quality of Park experiences.

In order to fulfil the objectives of this Management Plan, Parks Canada will create co-operative relationships with a variety of appropriate public- and private-sector partners. Pukaskwa will be a leader in developing these relationships.

Pukaskwa is a relatively new national park. Over the last 10 years, a modern, well-used service infrastructure compatible with the wilderness character of the Park has been developed. However, some basic operational and visitor facilities are still lacking. Over the next 15 years, emphasis should be placed on protecting and enhancing the Park ecosystem including the land surrounding the Park, managing visitor impacts, and developing only the most essential Park infrastructure.

Parks Canada will be accountable to the Canadian public and make a commitment to providing quality staff and service for the protection and presentation of their heritage.

Protecting Pukaskwa's natural and historic values benefits all Canadians. However, decreasing funds will require the Park to recover a fair portion of the cost of providing services and facilities for personal use in order to keep the Park in operation.

The protection of the natural and historic features of the park is a public benefit and should be borne by all taxpayers.

Users deriving a personal benefit from the use of Park will be required to pay a fair portion of the cost of the service.

Cost recovery and fees will be guided by the following:

Fairness: The cost of services should be borne by those who benefit from those services directly.

Appropriateness: All services with user fees should support the Parks Canada mandate.

Efficiency: User fees should be cost effective and reflect the willingness-to-pay of the public.

Simplicity: Fees must be clearly and easily understood by the public.

Benefit: User fees must reflect the value of the service for which they are paid.

The Park will ensure that services are provided in the most cost-effective manner possible.

APPENDIX C

SUMMARY OF THE ENVIRONMENTAL SCREENING ASSESSMENT

The following remarks are highlights of the environmental assessment done by LGL Environmental Research Associates Ltd. on the Park Management Plan for Pukaskwa National Park. Their report is dated August 19, 1994. If you would like more details about the environmental assessment, please contact Parks Canada; refer to LGL Project No. TA 903.

There are few initiatives in the Park Management Plan for Pukaskwa National Park that could be considered to have significant negative environmental impacts, as long as appropriate mitigative actions are taken. This results, in part, from the strategic and philosophic nature of the Plan, in which very few specific "hard" Park projects are identified. Rather, the initiatives in the Plan are often expressions of: the purpose, mission, and objectives of the National Park system and Pukaskwa Park itself; current thinking on resource management to ensure long-term sustainability of natural ecosystems; commitment to more co-operation between Parks Canada and its regional partners in protecting the greater ecosystem, of which Pukaskwa National Park is a part; or, commitments to develop resource management plans for various resources of the Park. These are favourable directions that can be considered to have positive environmental impacts.

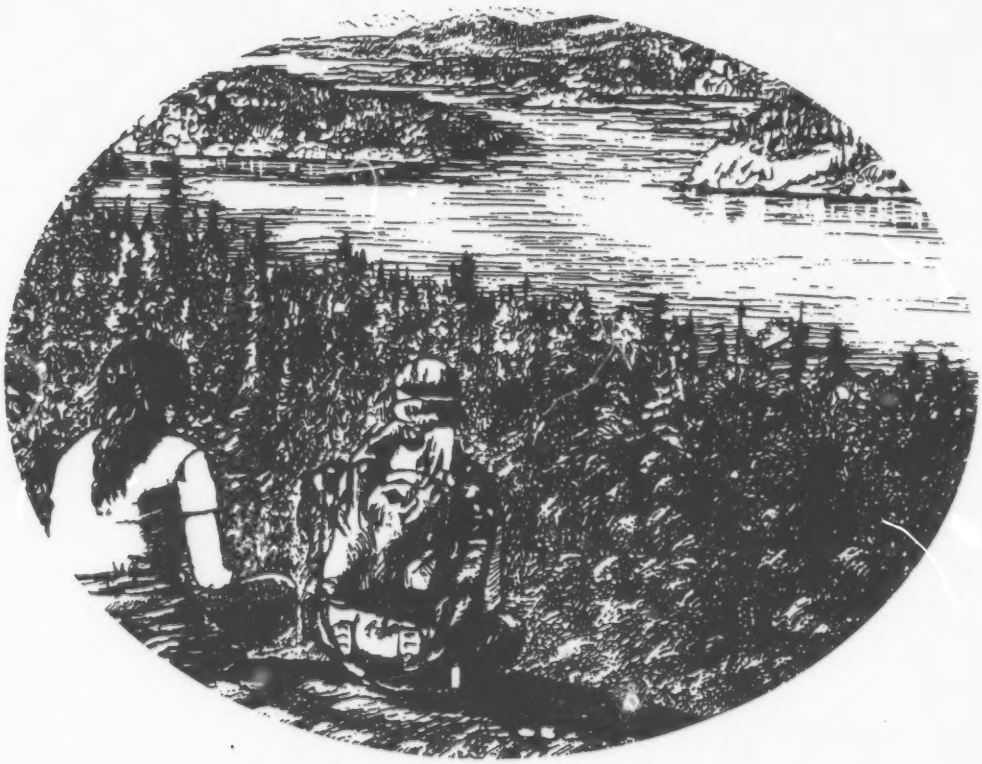
Several additional environmental benefits will come out of the specific initiatives proposed in the Park Management Plan. The most important ones will arise from the decision not to build land transit routes and the proposal to rezone the transit corridors more restrictively. Three other proposals will protect natural conditions in the Hattie Cove area: making the interim day-use area the permanent day-use area, making the current visitor reception centre a permanent facility, and maintaining the existing semi-serviced campground.

The three initiatives proposed for the Hattie Cove area; limited trail development, expanded parking and the development of a small group wilderness campground were probably the most troublesome. The Coastal Hiking Trail, particularly between Hattie Cove and White River, is currently heavily used and the ecosystem components in the area are highly valued. Some assessment of threshold capacity for development in this area is needed, along with a clear demonstration of the need for the proposed projects. Care must be taken not to fragment habitat and ecosystems. The impact of further trail development was considered particularly significant.

The negative environmental effects of back-country use include damage to vegetation, disturbance to wildlife, and small amounts of land alienation. These effects could not be totally mitigated, but low use would result in low impacts and so they were not considered significant at this time. However, keeping track of the future effects of back-country use is going to be severely hampered because there is no detailed inventory of the natural resources, including plants and animals, present in these areas right now.

However, in coming years, the most serious potential negative environmental impacts on Pukaskwa National Park could originate from the mining and forestry activity outside its boundaries. For instance, because of the number of road-building and road-improvement projects just outside the Park, it will probably be easier for people to get to remote areas of the Park. This will lead to increased use of these areas and hence to increased disturbance of plants and animals. Poaching of fish and/or wildlife may also increase. At the same time, it will be more difficult for Park staff to control access to these remote areas.

To minimize any negative impact from industrial opportunities outside the Park, Pukaskwa will work in partnership with appropriate agencies and industries to ensure that the Park's ecosystem is sustainable in the future. Otherwise, Pukaskwa National Park will become isolated from the ecosystems around it and its representative and/or rare resources will gradually diminish. Ultimately, the Park's ecological integrity and long-term viability are at stake.



APPENDIX D

PUBLIC CONSULTATION

The development of the Pukaskwa National Park Management Plan has included an extensive public consultation program. It was designed to ensure that the views and suggestions expressed by the public were considered by Parks Canada staff as part of the decision-making process.

The program began with the publication of a newsletter in the summer of 1989. The newsletter was distributed through a mailing list, as well as to Park visitors. It introduced the need for the Management Plan to the public and invited their comments.

Meetings were then held between Parks Canada staff and representatives of local groups and agencies with a interest in the future of the region and the role of the Park within it. These groups included the Canadian Parks and Wilderness Society, the Canadian Nature Federation, the Federation of Ontario Naturalists, and the Band Council of the Pic-50 Reserve of the Robinson-Superior Treaty Group at Heron Bay. A public session was held also in Thunder Bay in conjunction with the National Parks Policy Review.

The comments and suggestions received during these meetings and through the mail were taken into consideration as Parks Canada staff drafted recommendations for the Management Plan.

These recommendations were published in the summer of 1991 in a second newsletter, which also included draft Mission and Vision Statements. The newsletter invited the public's comments on the proposed statements and recommendations, and included a response sheet to make the process easier. Approximately 40 responses to the second newsletter were received and reviewed during the preparation of the final draft of the Management Plan.

There was strong support for the Plan recommendations, especially the broader ecosystem approach and the reduction of back-country development. The public felt these initiatives reflect a commitment by Parks Canada to assure that Pukaskwa National Park remains a key natural area in the Lake Superior basin, while providing the public with an accessible wilderness experience.

APPENDIX E

VISITOR ACTIVITIES CONCEPTUAL FRAMEWORK

FACILITIES	FRONTCOUNTRY	BACKCOUNTRY		
		Semi - Primitive	*Primitive*	*Wildlands*
Entrance Road	✔			
Kiosk	✔			
Parking Facilities	✔			
Visitor Centre	✔			
Day-Use Facilities	✔			
Accessible Facilities	✔			
Campground	✔			
Primitive Campsite	✔	✔	✔	
Group Campground	✔			
Interpretive Trail	✔			
Access Trail	✔			
Hiking Trail	✔	✔		
Backpacking Trail	✔	✔	✔	
Directional Signs	✔	✔		
On-site Exhibits	✔	✔		
Backcountry Registration	✔	✔		
Portage Routes	✔	✔	✔	
Picknicking Facilities	✔			
Park Administration	✔			
Maintenance Facilities	✔			
Staff Accommodation	✔			

APPROPRIATE FACILITIES SUMMARY

VISITOR ACTIVITIES CONCEPTUAL FRAMEWORK

ACTIVITIES	FRONTCOUNTRY	BACKCOUNTRY		
		Semi - Primitive	*Primitive*	*Wildlands*
Camping	✔	✔	✔	✔
Day Hiking	✔	✔		
Backpacking		✔	✔	✔
Canoe / Kayaking	✔	✔	✔	
Sail Boat	✔	✔	✔	
Motor Boat	✔	✔	✔	
Sport Fishing	✔	✔	✔	✔
Picknicking	✔	✔		
Interpretive Programs	✔			
Special Events	✔			
Group Tenting	✔			
Snowshoeing	✔	✔	✔	✔
X-Country Skiing	✔	✔	✔	✔
Nature Observation	✔	✔	✔	✔
Art Activities	✔	✔	✔	✔
Wilderness Skills	✔	✔	✔	✔

APPROPRIATE ACTIVITIES SUMMARY

APPENDIX F

USER FEES

Park visitors benefit directly by using park land, facilities, services and programs. In today's fiscal climate, it has become government policy that they contribute a fair share of the operation and maintenance costs, thus reducing the burden on the taxpayer. However, user fees must be sensitive to the regional economy, and prices charged by other suppliers of similar services. As well, fees must reflect the cost to the government for providing these services and the relative benefits to the user and to society as a whole. Examples of possible areas of cost recovery include, but are not limited to, day use, camping, parking, and interpretive services.

A comprehensive comparison of private sector rates will be undertaken to confirm that, given the differences in services, that fees are in line with those of the private sector and other government suppliers.

Fees will be monitored to determine their impact on local and regional partners, competitors and the economy.

A revenue plan guided by the principle of financial sustainability will identify opportunities to increase revenue from traditional sources and new areas of cost recovery.

Parks Canada will work with its partners to develop and encourage compatible business opportunities and practices which benefit local communities and increase revenue for the Park. Examples include cost-sharing, joint funding and sponsorship.

Results

Fees for Park services will be examined to ensure that they properly reflect fair value for the personal benefit received.